

### Police Commission Subcommittee Meets in Valley



Visitation Valley residents expressed their opinions during a Police Commission Subcommittee meeting on Nov. 1.

by Betty Parshall

The Police Commission's Subcommittee on Violent Crime came to the Visitation Valley Community Center on Nov. 1 to hear people talk about their concerns and gather suggestions for improving safety in the neighborhood.

The meeting was chaired by Commissioner Theresa Sparks and also included commission members Dr. Joe Marshall and Petra De Jesus. Sparks opened the meeting by saying that the committee has been holding community meetings without police presence to help people be frank should they have complaints about police officers.

She emphasized that the committee wants community input to assist in developing policies within the police department. Dr. Marshall added that the committee is working with a new process in which it seeks public comment and then meets with captains to bring about ways to address concerns and develop new ways of resolving troubling situations.

The public was urged to share comments, criticisms, problems,

and especially suggestions and ideas for possible solutions. The comments from those attending were varied and heart-felt:

"Racial and ethnic division is a reality we must address."

"We need to heal, and to acknowledge our similarities in order to move forward, leaving the perceived divisions behind."

"Regarding 'black on black' crime, our young people need a lot more attention and help in realizing their own worth; they must respect themselves first in order to have respect for others, and the community must try to bring this about."

More than one person addressed the fact that police-community relations are not good in this neighborhood, giving examples of incidents in which officers' behavior contributed to anger and resentment. There is very strong feeling that although there are other gangs in the Valley, the police focus on African-American gangs — and males in general — and unless this police behavior can be addressed any improvements will be hard to realize.

Representatives of some of the CBOs (community based organizations) in the Valley spoke. There

were then requests from some folks that there be more accountability for the funds being spent and more information about what is being accomplished.

More than one person spoke of the need for visible police presence: "Instead of having donuts and coffee at Sunnydale and Bayshore, could the officers visit the coffee shops on Leland Avenue?"

And several people also suggested having designated safe places in the Valley where people could report crimes, such as the John King Center, the Village and the Community Centers: "It is a hardship for many to get to a station to make a report, and very difficult for non-English speaking persons to know how to make a report, and where. More multi-lingual information services are needed."

Here, chairperson Sparks spoke about the recent 311 phone number that people can use to get information about all city services, and added the rather amazing fact that it is offered in 47 languages. She asked the community to help in verifying that this service is working.

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### City is Headed in the Right Direction

Mayor Gavin Newsom on Oct. 29 delivered the final State of the City address of his first term, "Progress by the Numbers," at UCSF's Mission Bay campus.

Newsom's speech, delivered with the aid of Power Point, used charts and graphs to illustrate the progress that San Francisco has made since he took office.

"These numbers tell a powerful story," said Newsom. "San Francisco is making progress in almost every area."

Newsom cited progress in several key areas:

**\*The Economy.** The city has built historic reserves, attracted emerging industries such as biotech, increased hotel occupancy and SFO traffic, and reduced unemployment and office vacancies.

**\*Government Efficiency.** The city's civil service system is being reformed, city departments have been consolidated, and customer-service programs such as 311 have been initiated.

### Winter Festival Fun at Valley Beacon Center

Visitation Valley Community Beacon Center (VVCBC) at 450 Raymond Ave. cordially invites the neighborhood to an afternoon of entertainment at the Winter Family Festival on Saturday, Dec. 1 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Middle School cafeteria and schoolyard.

Featured will be a Spongebob jumper, rub-off tattoos, face painting, hip-hop performances, basketball tournament, free raffle, Tai-Chi demo and door prizes. Bring a can food item for an additional raffle ticket. The event is sponsored by VVCBC and Weed & Seed.

**\*Infrastructure.** Due to record capital investment, the city's streets, sidewalks, parks, and libraries have been improved. The successful community corridors program, community benefit districts, and greening projects have been expanded.

**\*Muni.** Muni's on-time performance is improving, the "Next Muni" system is fully operational, and 86 hybrid buses have hit the streets.

**\*Health Care.** Over 3,073 people have been enrolled in Healthy San Francisco, Newsom's universal health care program.

**\*Housing.** More than 7,981 units of affordable housing have been built, evictions are down dramatically, and Newsom has initiated a \$95 million plan, Hope SF, to rebuild public housing.

**\*Homelessness.** The Newsom administration's strategies to end homelessness have moved 6,288 formerly homeless individuals off the streets since 2004 — a 38.9 percent decline. Newsom has also reduced the city's welfare caseload, recently doubled the Homeless Outreach teams, and initiated the community justice center, a court that will connect low-level offenders with rehabilitative services.

**\*Public Safety.** Newsom has improved regional emergency planning and added 444 police officers during his tenure. Serious crime is down 10 percent.

**\*Education.** Under Newsom, who has visited 78 out of the city's 111 schools, the city's investment in schools has increased by 346 percent.

Newsom also discussed the city's recent achievements in the arts, youth and family services, and the environment.

### Giving Back to the Community



Cezia Tano

Visitation Valley resident Chris Barnett co-owner of Sterling Art Service.

by Cezia Tano

Life partners Chris Barnett and Reinhold Gras have been Visitation Valley residents. In 1999 the two began to look into buying a home in San Francisco. When Barnett and Gras came to Visitation Valley they immediately fell in love with the neighborhood and saw an opportunity make a house into a home.

Barnett, an Art History Major, worked at a small framing company, Sterling Art. At the time it was owned and operated by another family since 1981. Barnett's commitment to the company was obvious, and when the family decided to sell the business, Barnett was the first to jump on the opportunity to keep the business alive. So in 1991 Barnett took ownership of the company. And in 1993 Gras joined as co-owner of the company.

Not only is the couple committed to the company, but they are committed to the community. Barnett's involvement in the Visitation Valley Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) is his way of ensuring that the neighborhood continues to grow and flourish. By attending the CAC meetings, Chris was introduced to VVBOOM (Visitation Valley Business Opportunities and Outreach to Merchants Program) and the program's many projects. It was VVBOOM's

Community Banner Project that caught his attention, and it was then when he realized how his business could give back to his community.

Barnett and Gras donated time, services and materials to VVBOOM by custom framing four sets of VVBOOM's Community Posters. The total value of these framed sets are well over \$1,000, but the value of the donation is priceless. These posters will be located throughout the Valley, so be on the lookout for the art work!

**Sterling Art**  
Sterling Art Services was established in 1981 and has evolved into a significant resource for individuals engaged in all manner of visual pursuits and professions in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond. The company is small enough to offer a high level of customer service but large enough to take on ambitious production projects.

Sterling is fueled by a talented crew of craftspeople and artists who bring their own experience and understanding of materials and process to fruition in a product of which they can be proud. Attention to detail is expressed through an often collaborative process between Sterling and the customer.

For more information, please visit <http://www.steart.com>

### S.F. Releases First Economic Development Strategy Report

Mayor Gavin Newsom on Nov. 9 announced the release of the first ever citywide economic development plan for San Francisco. Titled "Sustaining Our Property: The San Francisco Economic Strategy", the plan contains a review of San Francisco's recent economic performance, identifies those industries that drive the local economy and outlines goals and strategies for achieving economic success in San Francisco.

"Local government can have a positive influence on San Francisco's economic competitiveness, in areas from small business and workforce development, to

infrastructure and the cost of doing business," said Mayor Newsom. "The supports we provide must be tailored to the needs of the industries that power our economy. Our local economic strategy is less a matter of picking winners, and more about knowing our customers."

Specific goals of the Strategy include: creating good jobs that match the skills and education of residents, preserving and enhancing small business, creating job opportunities for disabled and vulnerable populations, and developing the City's tax base.

Recommendations in the report

focus on areas such as working to retain existing large businesses that provide large numbers of middle income jobs, better supporting emerging businesses so that they stay and grow in San Francisco, reevaluating the local business tax structure, and expanding the tourist experience for visitors.

"San Francisco exports knowledge-based services, products, and media to the world, and we provide stimulating experiences to our visitors," said Newsom. "We must clearly understand our role in the broader national and global economy, and our success depends on being competitive in these core activities."

Per the requirement of Proposition 1, which in 2004 mandated the creation of a citywide economic development plan, the Board shall review and adopt the strategy set forth in the report. All legislation introduced at the Board of Supervisors that has an economic impact on the city will be reviewed against the strategies presented in the plan by the Office of Economic Analysis.

Copies of the "Sustaining Our Property: The San Francisco Economic Strategy" can be found online at [www.sfgov.org/moewd](http://www.sfgov.org/moewd) and at [www.sfeconomicstrategy.com](http://www.sfeconomicstrategy.com).

### High Test Results Again for VVES

It's official now and time to celebrate! The annual state STAR test results are back and Visitation Valley Elementary School (VVES) has reached 802 in its Academic Performance Index (API) in 2007, the mark of Education Excellence.

In 2006, the school API was 784, and with an 18 point gain, the school over 800. VVES has also successfully met all the mandates of the federal No Child Left Behind.

Recognizing VVES's success and efforts, the California Business for Education Excellence Foundation

presented by the California Department of Education.

With VVES already having celebrated its achievement with a school wide ice cream party donated by Double Rainbow, Principal Vincent Chao, who has yet again lost his challenge with the students — three years in a row now — will have to come to work in a clown suit this time! Principal Chao said that he plans to keep his "promise" to be a clown for a day, and challenged his students to hit API 820 in Spring 2008.



## Grapevine Mailbox

### A Credit Card Scam

The callers do not ask for your card number. They already have it.

The scam works like this: Person calling says, "This is (name), and I'm calling from the Security and Fraud Department at Visa. My Badge number is 12460. Your card has been flagged for an unusual purchase pattern, and I'm calling to verify. This would be on your Visa card which was issued by (name of bank). Did you purchase an Anti-Telemarketing Device for \$497.99 from a marketing company based in Arizona?" When you say "No," the caller continues with, "Then we will be issuing a credit to your account. This is a company we have been watching and the charges range from \$297 to \$497, just under the \$500 purchase pattern that flags most cards. Before your next statement, the credit will be sent to (gives you your address), is that correct?"

You say "yes." The caller continues, "I will be starting a fraud investigation. If you have any questions, you should call the 1-800 number listed on the back of your card (1-800-VISA) and ask for Security. You will need to refer to this Control Number. The caller then gives you a six-digit number. "Do you need me to read it again?"

Here's the important part on how the scam works. The caller then says, "I need to verify you are in possession of your card." He'll ask you to "turn your card over and look for some numbers." There are seven numbers; the first four are part of your card number, the next three are the security numbers that verify you are the possessor of the card.

These are the numbers you sometimes use to make Internet purchases to prove you have the card. The caller will ask you to read the three numbers to him. After you tell the caller the 3 numbers, he'll say, "That is correct, I just needed to verify that the card has not been lost or stolen, and that you still have your card. Do you have any other questions?" After you say No, the caller then thanks you and states, "Don't hesitate to call back if you do", and hangs up.

You actually say very little, and they never ask for or tell you the Card number. But after we were called on Wednesday, we called back within 20 minutes to ask a question. Are we glad we did! The "real" Visa Security Department told us it was a scam and in the last 15 minutes a new purchase of \$497.99 was charged to our card.

Long story - short - we made a real fraud report and closed the Visa account. Visa is reissuing us a new number. What the scammers want is the 3-digit PIN number on the back of the card. Don't give it to them. Instead, tell them you'll call Visa or Master card directly for verification of their conversation. The real Visa told us that they will never ask for anything on the card as they already know the information since they issued the card! If you give the scammers your 3 Digit PIN Number, you think you're receiving a credit. However, by the time you get your statement you'll see charges for purchases you didn't make, and by then it's almost too late and/or more difficult to actually file a fraud report.

What makes this more remarkable is that on Thursday, I got a call from a "Jason Richardson of Master Card" with a word-for-word repeat of the Visa scam. This time I didn't let him finish. I hung up! We filed a police report, as instructed by Visa. The po-

lice said they are taking several of these reports daily! They also urged us to tell everybody we know that this scam is happening.

### Mountain Watch Gala

San Bruno Mountain Watch will be hosting our first fund-raising gala, "Celebration of San Bruno Mountain," featuring "Butterflies & Bulldozers: The Fight for San Bruno Mountain," on Saturday, December 29, 2007 from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at the Mission Blue Community Center in Brisbane. Our showing is an exclusive preview of this movie by filmmakers Steve and Ann Dunsky and Keith and Sam Moreau. "Butterflies & Bulldozers" is an independent documentary film that tells the remarkable story of San Bruno Mountain. As the last intact fragment of the Franciscan Region, the lost landscape of San Francisco, this unique ecosystem supports forms of life that exist no other place on Earth. It is the largest urban open space in the nation - an untrammelled island in a sea of people, a wilderness on the edge of the city. The filmmakers have already applied to various film festivals, including the prestigious Sun Dance Film Festival in Colorado. We wish them the very best.

To view a clip of their breath-taking movie, please visit their Web site at [www.butterfliesandbulldozers.com](http://www.butterfliesandbulldozers.com)

Hors d'oeuvres will be served, and we will have live music and a hosted wine bar. The tax-deductible donation for this event is \$100 (in advance), 125 (the day of the event). Sponsorships begin at \$1,000. All proceeds will benefit SBMW, a non-profit organization that seeks to educate the community and protect the Mountain for future generations.

The beautiful Mission Blue Community Center is located at 475 Mission Blue Drive. If you would like to attend our gala, please call 415-467-6631, or send an RSVP with the number of people attending by e-mail to [sanbruno@mountainwatch.org](mailto:sanbruno@mountainwatch.org).

To visit our Web site for more information please go to [www.mountainwatch.org](http://www.mountainwatch.org).

To sign up for the San Bruno Mountain Watch newsletter, Mission Blue Sentinel, please send an e-mail to Ken at [sanbruno@mountainwatch.org](mailto:sanbruno@mountainwatch.org).

We look forward to seeing our nearest neighbors from Visitacion Valley join us in this evening of year-end festivity and education.

Maryanne Razzo  
San Bruno Mountain Watch Board

### Chinese Healing Scam Alert

The San Francisco Police Department is alerting the Chinese community to a healing scam targeting elderly Asian females. In the latest incident, which occurred on October 17, three suspects, a Chinese female and two Chinese males, approached the victim, asking if she was sick. After suspects poured water into a teacup, one of the male suspects stirred the water with his finger, explaining to the victim that it is a sign of illness if the water changes color when the victim places her finger in the water. When the victim placed her finger in the water, the water changed color and the victim felt dizzy. Apparently, the suspect introduced a chemical into the water that is absorbed through the skin, causing a feeling of dizziness. The suspects then drove the victim to her residence, where they obtained \$900 to affect a "cure."

There have been two other reported healing scams in the last year. In both incidents, an Asian female, 45-50 years of age, accompanied by two Chinese males, approached the victim, struck up a conversation, then inquired about the health of the victim. The suspects produced a liquid used, they stated, to indicate the victim's health. After touching the liquid, the victims in both cases felt dizzy. The suspects in all of these incidents spoke Cantonese.

Members of the public, especially members of the Chinese community, should be aware of such scams and are cautioned about the unknown chemical used in the scam. For more information, please contact: Sergeant Bobby Cheung, Fraud Section at 553-1542.

### Well-Attended Police Commission Meeting

Last night, I was watching the police commission regular meeting on TV (Ch. 26) when they came to the item of the subcommittee report on violent crime meeting held here in Visitacion Valley on Nov. 1. Our community was given high marks for how well-attended and organized the meeting was. They had commented that this was exactly the type of information they wanted to hear from the community and that it is why this subcommittee was formed. They also said that future meetings would be televised and that a transcript would be prepared and sent back to our community, the chief of police; captains of Ingleside and Bayview stations and other City officials.

They also reported how we are forming small groups to address some of the issues we have here in the Valley and are also trying to get accountability for community-based organizations (CBOs) that are receiving funding for Visitacion Valley. They said that we need more funding and would try to pass the word onto other City officials.

They mentioned our concerns for the children of our community who have little recreational facilities: no gym, no jobs, etc. The subcommittee also spoke about getting better publicity about these meetings out to the community and was impressed that some people tried to flyer the neighborhood. Also, they mentioned that the Ingleside station captain should have his monthly meetings in our neighborhood once in a while to hear our concerns.

Overall, it was very positive and they seemed surprised of our diversity; organization and Marlene Tran's survey with our Chinese neighbors who voiced the same concerns and safety issues that we all face here in Visitacion Valley. Lifelong resident, Edie Epps

### Visitacion Valley Greenway

In collaboration with the Visitacion Valley Greenway Project, the San Francisco Recreation and Park Department is pleased to implement improvements to the northernmost segment of the Visitacion Valley Greenway.

The Greenway is a string of City-owned parcels stretching from Tioga Avenue to Leland Avenue for a variety of community-oriented recreational uses. The overall planning and incremental improvements which have been in the making since 1996 is near completion. Maintenance of the Greenway has largely been through volunteer efforts.

In concept, this segment of the Greenway is designed to represent various California plant communities for educational opportunities. Improvements to the site will include:

- \*A meandering path complying with the wheelchair accessibility requirements.

- \*Viewing platform that can also serve as an outdoor classroom.

- \*Wood bridges that cross over a dry creek bed.

- \*Perimeter fences and gates to secure the park in the evenings.

Contractually, these improvements are to be completed in early June 2008. However, the contractor is striving to complete the improvements sooner.

For more information on the improvements, please call the Recreation and Park Department at (415) 581-2541. To volunteer or to stay in touch with the program development for the Greenway, please call (415) 468-0639.

### Questions and Concerns To the Police Commission

Hi Commissioners:

Thank you, President Sparks and Commissioners Marshall, DeJesus and Veronese for your presence at our Visitacion Valley Community Center tonight (Nov. 1, 2007).

Being a teacher of immigrant adults (and recently retired from 35 years of teaching newly-arrived, immigrant children in San Francisco), I understand some of their

their reluctance to speak in public on police matters. You must have noticed that no Asian spoke up in your presence even though there was a translator present and, they constituted half of the residents there. Why? Besides language and cultural barriers, there was sensitivity to racial issues (because their perpetrators may be of another ethnic group), political repressions from their former countries, the Asian question of "saving face," their unfamiliarity with American society etc., For this reason, I provided our ESL students with a simple input for them to fill out anonymously before the Police Commissioners meeting.

The following are the questions and concerns:

1. Are S.F. police reports only in English? If so, crime victims cannot read the content. (Personally, I have assisted some monolingual crime victims in the past. Most felt that law enforcement had not provided them with much assistance so they lose trust in this department. For example, a few years ago, the Victims Assistance Program provided a Spanish-speaking translator for a Mandarin-speaking victim. Actually, Christina Wong from Chinese for Affirmative Action was involved in this case, too. In another battery case against my Chinese ESL students, had their whole case so bungled by the very department that was supposed to assist them, that this couple felt they were victimized twice!

2. Is the SFPD web site only in English? (If so, it may violate our City's Equal Language Access Ordinance. Obviously, it is impossible to have translations in all languages, but start with the majority languages first.)

3. Hire more bilingual police officers. Why are there so many more police officers in Hong Kong and so very few in San Francisco? If funding is a problem, then hire lower wage bilingual clerks (like paralegal) and train them to bridge the communication gaps to take reports from our diverse population. It is understandable that bilingual law enforcement recruits are difficult to hire, so this can be a viable solution to it.

4. The Southeast Sector has been plagued by violent crimes. So, why not work on long term solutions to help our youth? The current "band-aid" treatment will continue to cause community turmoil. Actually, one of the most successful ways to help them is to build learning centers in low income areas where parents/guardians get paid if they also attend. The adults can learn with their children, get better parental skills, upgrade themselves with course work etc. Representatives from youth and our diverse population urge for more recreation centers, too. The Southeast Sector has too many youth but little recreation and learning opportunities for them. How about working with the mega developer, Lennar, to seek some funds from their \$1+ billion housing development in the Southeast sector? Ms. Tiffany Bohee, is our City's liaison for this vast project.

5. Install more surveillance cameras in trouble spots i.e. 7-11 Store, Caltrain's Bayshore station, around trouble spots of our current housing developments, schools, our senior and community centers and other high crime locations.

6. There should be more police on Muni especially for some troubled lines. Teach the drivers to be more effective when crimes occur. A majority of assaults are underreported because victims are so busy fending for themselves to notice the bus reporting information needed.

7. Increase police foot patrol in the Southeast sector.

8. Our community needs "a kiosk" on Leland Avenue that is staffed with multilingual officers. Better still, since the 7-11 Store on Bayshore/Arleta has been an ongoing trouble spot for our residents, why not impose eminent domain on this site and replace it with a

police center to benefit our community?

9. Ingleside Precinct should not be the main monthly police meeting location because it is not accessible to most residents. The captain should arrange for meetings at the Visitacion Valley Community on Friday evenings (because there are ESL classes there Monday to Thursday evenings). This is a friendly and accessible site for all people - busy merchants and residents.

10. Most people (especially the monolingual residents) don't know how to do police reports. This process can be taught in the monthly police meetings. (Marlene Tran had helped former Captain Bruce with a simple bilingual write-up to encourage residents to make reports.)

11. Increase police sensitivity training. One former ESL student reported of a misunderstanding with the police that caused her weeks of nightmares.

12. The case reporting slips of paper given by police to victims are English-only. There is usually no police follow-ups after crime reporting. Why?

13. Most crime victims are not aware of the police call priority issues, so it is very exasperating for them to wait. It is a known, and unfortunate, factor that few Asians seek police help because they feel there are no results from reporting. Some limited-English-speaking drivers who sought help for minor car accidents were told by police to deal with it themselves, making them even more helpless and prone to scams.

14. Our 100-plus evening students at 50-66 Raymond Avenue need Monday through Thursday evening patrols for our ESL classes from 6:15 to 8:15 p.m. around the Visitacion Valley Community Center, and an included patrol at the Visitacion Valley Beacon on Wednesday and Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. Since the shooting of Mr. Yam in late August about half-a-block from our classes, our evening attendance has dwindled to less than one-third!

15. The current legal definition of "hate crime" is very unclear. For example, if a totally unprovoked crime is perpetrated against a non-English speaking victim and angry racial remarks accompanied the assault, how does the law treat this case? Students have reported to their teachers that they have been surrounded by very young perpetrators with robbery intent. The helpless victims were afraid to fight off the kids for fear that this would escalate into racial issues.

16. It is cost-effective and an ongoing goodwill gesture to bridge communication and trust particularly with newer immigrants for SFPD to produce a series of crime prevention and intervention video series that can be dubbed into different languages for public broadcast in the ethnic media (and on loan to other cities). For example, recommend the use of a cheap, crime deterrent by installing motion-detected lighting in their buildings.

17. Cellular phone companies should inform subscribers only in San Francisco that for expediency in an emergency, they should call 553-8090. The 911 is for regular phone lines. Several years ago, Marlene Tran inadvertently found out when her cellular call of #911 was rerouted to Vallejo City thereby delaying the arrest of four youths who were slugging residents along Raymond & Leland Avenues.

18. One of the most important reasons victims are afraid to contact law enforcement is the fear of retaliation. What can SFPD do to make victims more responsive?

19. All the City Commissioners meetings are conducted in English for broadcast, so non-English residents are completely in the dark about many government issues. If there are sign language interpreters and access for handicapped residents, why is the language need of so many residents not included?

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## GRAPEVINE

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Published monthly by Visitacion Valley Community Center, 80 Raymond Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134, (415) 467-9300; Fax: 467-3757; [visvalley@earthlink.net](mailto:visvalley@earthlink.net); Web: [www.visvalleygrapevine.com](http://www.visvalleygrapevine.com)  
Opinions expressed in the Visitacion Valley Grapevine are not necessarily those of Visitacion Valley Community Center.  
VVCC Executive Director: Julia A. Kavanagh  
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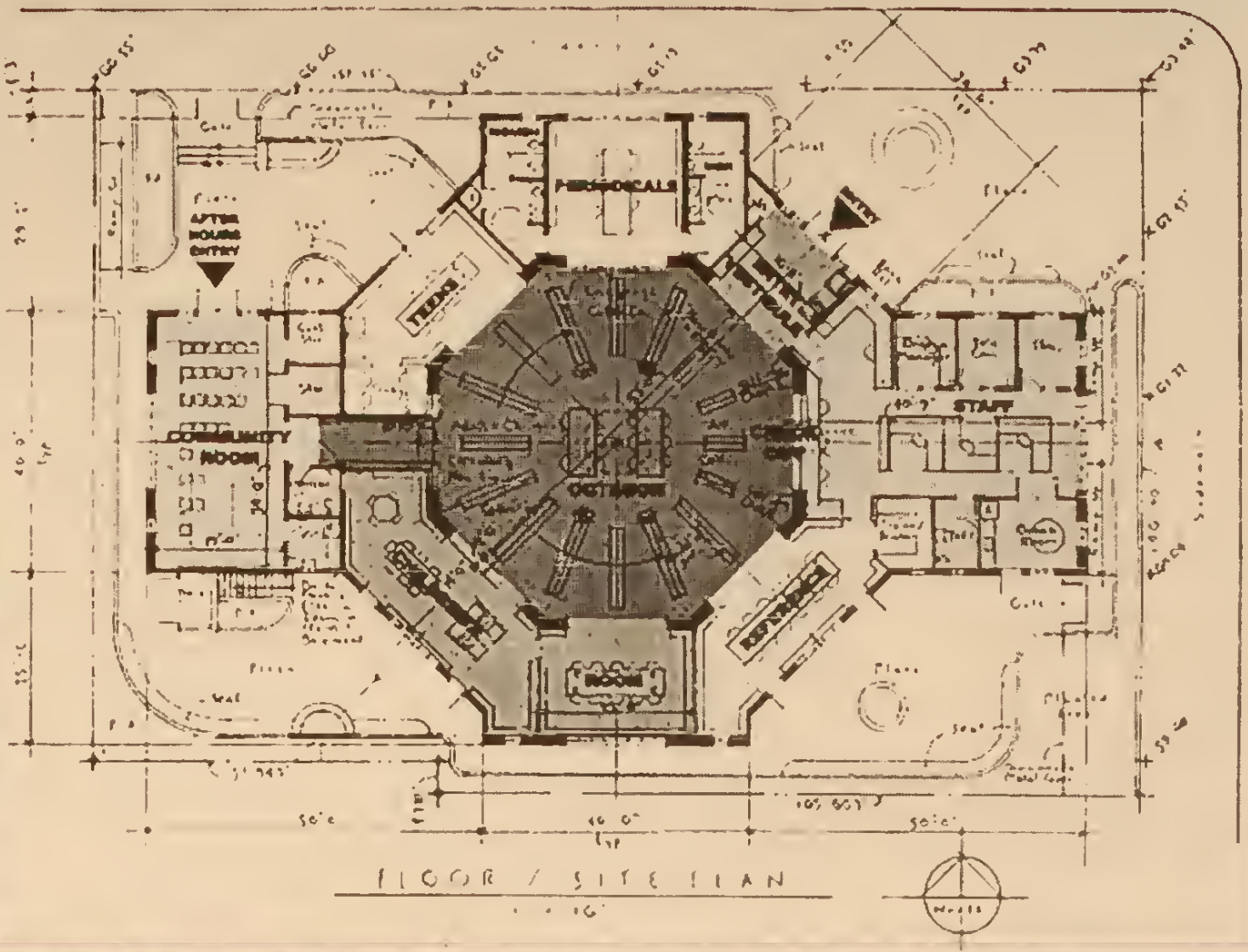


## Architect Unveils Brand New Plan for Proposed Visitacion Valley Branch Library

Staff from the San Francisco Public Library presented plans at the Visitacion Valley Clubhouse on Oct. 25 for a new Branch Library proposed for the site at Leland Avenue and Rutland Street (where the current Superfair Market and parking lot are located).

Andy Maloney, the architect for the Visitacion Valley Clubhouse is also architect for the new library. At the meeting, a completely new building design was unveiled with an interior size remaining about 8,500 square feet (from a previous design). The library has also chosen to utilize the entire site with four separate plaza areas.

The exterior has evolved into what is best described as a Romanesque inspired octagonal dome. The new branch is scheduled to open in 2010.



## A Successful Tour of Gardens in the Portola District

by Betty Parshall

A tour of 15 gardens in the Portola neighborhood on Saturday, Oct. 20 proved to be an inspiring and delightful event. The tour was sponsored by the Friends of the Library for the benefit of the Portola library fund.

The variety of the gardens hidden in the backyards was surprising. One beautiful garden featured a lawn leading to a raised patio bordered by tall shrubs and trees. On either side of the lawn beds were filled with numerous blooming flowers, both perennials and annuals.

Another less formal garden started with a bricked area surrounded by greenery. A brick path led through a shady "tunnel" to open into another brick patio at the back, also surrounded by lush green plants. The ambience was very mellow, as the owner had incorporated materials salvaged from old building sites. Most of the bricks were imprinted with company names from long ago and visitors had a good time reading them.

A big hit at another garden was a stunning bougainvillea in a soft orange or apricot color.

The surprises and delights went on. At one home the garden descends down a very steep grade. A gently winding stone staircase takes one past terraces, to the lowest level. There, one finds two very

tall chairs made from sturdy, smooth branch wood, which stand about ten and twelve feet tall and are securely bolted to the ground. A climb up the rungs provides a comfortable seat from which the sitter can see the wonderful view of downtown San Francisco, the Bay Bridge and the Berkeley and Oakland hills.

The San Francisco School on Sweeny Street features plants tended by the students, a couple of ducks with their own pond, a rabbit hopping through the tall grass, and descriptive signs made by the youngsters next to some of the plants tended by students. A visitor could easily wish to be back in school if it meant working and playing in this exciting and charming garden.

Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School was also open for the tour, where students learn about gardening from initial digging to composting, planting and nurturing of their crops.

At one home the original entry to the back yard was gained by going down stairs inside the house. The owner built a bridge from the house to the yard level, which had the pleasing effect of making the garden an extension of the home. He next constructed a series of small decks for easy access and maintenance and had a great variety of potted plants supplementing the planted areas.

One visitor was so inspired by the gardens she visited that she has begun removal of a problem bougainvillea in her yard (lots of pruning and terrible thorns) and will replace it with flowering pear trees.

She also will replace the shabby shower bench with something more decorative and plans to exchange a five-gallon bucket of sand with a proper birdbath.

The Friends of the Library organized the tour with help from Portola residents. While city funds from bonds and developer fees pay for construction costs of renovated and new libraries, the furnishings, computers and other interior accessories are paid for by the Friends' fund raising efforts.

With the Visitacion Valley library now in the design process, our neighborhood will be expected to do our part. Would a garden tour be feasible in the Valley? What other ways might our community raise money for our library? The Visitacion Valley History Project has dedicated funds from its sales of the Arcadia book and used book sales to our library fund.

Write a letter to the editor of the Grapevine with your ideas: by email: [visvalley@earthlink.net](mailto:visvalley@earthlink.net); by regular mail: Grapevine, Visitacion Valley Community Center, 50 Raymond Ave. San Francisco, CA 94134; or in person: 50 Raymond Ave., second floor.

## City College Recruiting Faculty at December Job Fair

Current and future positions available at City College of San Francisco will be highlighted at the fourth annual Job Fair Friday, Dec. 7 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hotel Kabuki, 1625 Post St.

Jobs available at the College include full-time and part-time faculty, administrative, and classified support staff.

Participants will have an opportunity to meet College department representatives, obtain applications and job announcements, learn how CCSF's hiring process works and get answers onsite from representatives of the College's Human Resources Department.

Recruitment for faculty positions

leading to tenure includes: Art (Painting/Figure Drawing), Business (Accounting/Finance and Computer Applications/Business Law), Child Development & Family Studies, Chinese (Mandarin), Counselor (International Student Counseling and New Student Counseling), English (Basic Skills and General English), English as a Second Language, French, Japanese, Language Center Assistant Coordinator, Librarians, Mathematics, Registered Nursing (Medical-Surgical), and Radiation Oncology Technology.

Other opportunities for full-time and part-time substitutes include these departments: Art, Automotive/Trade Skills, Biological Sciences,

Business, Career Development & Placement Center, Chemistry, Computer Networking & Information Technology, Continuing Student Counseling, Culinary Arts and Hospitality Studies, English as a Second Language, Extended Opportunity Programs & Services, Health Education & Community Health Studies, Mathematics, New Student Counseling, and Licensed Vocational Nursing.

More than 50 part-time pool job announcements also will be available.

For full details about the Job Fair, telephone (415) 241-2246 or visit the College's Human Resources Department web site at [www.ccsf.edu/hr](http://www.ccsf.edu/hr).

## Halloween Frolics at "Little Vis"



Students at Visitacion Valley Elementary School (VVES) were more than happy to show off their costumes during Halloween festivities in October.

## Events in December at Valley Branch Library

Following are events in December at the Visitacion Valley Branch Library at 45 Leland Ave.:

\*Dec. 4, 11 and 18, Tuesday: *Mother Goose on the Loose* with stories songs and rhythms for babies and toddlers at 11:30 a.m.

\*Dec. 4 and 18, Tuesday: Preschool

Storytime for ages 3-5 at 10:30 a.m. \*Dec. 11, Tuesday: *Holiday Music* at 10:30 a.m. Sing and play along to music of the season. For ages 3-5. Space is limited. Call (415) 355-2848 for reservations.

\*Dec. 12, Wednesday: *Preschool Videos* for ages 3-5 at 10:30 a.m.



## Bay Area Responds to Oil Spill with Federal Resources

by Speaker Nancy Pelosi

The San Francisco Bay is one of our region's most precious resources. It is a point of pride for our city and essential to the vitality of the Bay Area. I have worked with my colleagues in the Bay Area Congressional Delegation for many years to preserve its pristine ecosystem, protect its native wildlife, and promote its recreational and commercial potential. Unfortunately, as a result of last month's oil spill, the health and beauty of the Bay has been compromised, beaches closed and business slowed.

While there are many questions left to be answered about the nature of the accident and the response

to it, our priority at this time must be cleaning the spill thoroughly and rapidly. Federal resources have been accessed and funds secured in order to facilitate remediation. The Bay Area is fortunate to have a Congressional Delegation with the experience and expertise to respond to a disaster of this nature, and the delegation is working together to ensure that the federal, state, and local efforts are coordinated and that additional resources are available as needed.

My colleagues and I are working together with the appropriate authorities to examine the causes of the accident and the response to it in order to prevent mistakes of this magnitude from being repeated.

## Having Safe Toys for the Holidays

by Assemblywoman Fiona Ma  
CPA-Majority Whip

With the holiday season around the corner and the notice of recalls, I know many of you are concerned with toy safety. Billions of toys are sold in the United States each year and a large majority of them are sold in December. We need to make sure our children are playing with toys that are safe, not toxic. On November 20, I attended the release of Trouble in Toyland, the 22nd annual survey of toy safety. The report was conducted by CALPIRG, a nonprofit, nonpartisan state-based interest advocacy organization. The report contains a number of guidelines for those shopping for toys and encourages holiday shoppers to make sure that the gift you are buying for your loved one is safe. A copy of the report can be found at calpirg.org.

In addition, the report contains a number of alarming findings on the long-neglected Federal Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), who I have been at odds with over toy safety issues. The CPSC is the nation's smallest

safety agency, and yet it is responsible for 15,000 different products — from chain saws to escalators and from kitchen appliances to children's toys.

An even more disturbing fact is that the CPSC has only one toy tester at its decrepit Maryland laboratory, with only 15 of the 400 total staff (down from a peak of 978 in 1980) are on duty full-time as port inspectors. Not only has the CPSC failed to act on eliminating toxic chemicals from toys, but also lead — which many of us thought was an issue of the past. This is why State action is needed.

This past legislative session, I was successful in banning dangerous hormone disrupting chemicals known as phthalates in toys. As I continue to advocate for our children and toy safety next year, I will work on legislation to completely eliminate lead from toys sold here in California. My hope is that this will send the Bush Administration a clear message that states will continue to act if the CPSC continues to remain idle, understaffed, and under-funded.

The House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation is investigating the spill and held a field hearing in San Francisco last month. I have also requested that the Fiscal Year 2008 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, which funds the Coast Guard, include language initiating an investigation by the Inspector General. Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey of Marin has also introduced legislation to improve protection for the area's marine resources by prohibiting oil and gas drilling and expanding the boundaries of these natural areas. I look forward to working with her to bring her bill to the House floor.

With the clean-up efforts underway, responsible parties must be held to account for their actions. If the company is found to be at fault for the accident, then they must face the consequences and pay for the damages. The Coast Guard must also be held accountable for any delays in responding to the spill, discrepancies in reporting the severity of the spill to local officials and deficiencies in the Bay's navigation system. The public should have confidence that those responsible will be held accountable for their actions and that mistakes made in response to disasters of this kind will not happen again.

As we continue to respond to this disaster, I commend all those who have assisted in the clean-up efforts. I also want to extend my sincere appreciation to the fishermen who lent their boats to respond to the spill and to the hundreds of volunteers from around the Bay Area who have donated their time and energy locating and cleaning oiled birds and assisting with the clean-up on our beaches. Working together, we will restore the beauty of the San Francisco Bay.

## Joe Leland around the neighborhood

**\*Another New Low for Vis Valley!:** The November 6, 2007 election results are in and once again Visitation Valley and Bayview Hunters Point are the winners of the "San Francisco Neighborhoods with the Lowest Voter Turnout" prize. Vis Valley's abysmal 28 percent turnout slight edged out BVHP's appalling 26 percent for the honor of being dead last. Vis Valley can still claim the last place prize for the lowest number of registered voters that voted however. Only 2,008 Vis Valley residents took the time to flex their democratic muscles, which is far lower than BVHP's 4,061 voters. Our elected officials ignore many issues, but they don't ignore election results. Neighborhoods with consistently low voter turnout means consistently less political support for that neighborhood. If we don't support them on Election Day, how much support can we expect from them during their terms in office? To quote our re-elected by a landslide Mayor, "We can do better!"

**\*Got Email?:** Join the Visitation Valley Yahoo Group and stay informed about all things Visitation Valley. The thing about it is that it's 100% free! Go to: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Valley\\_Eye](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Valley_Eye) (There is an underscore between Valley and Eye!)

## In Celebration of the Holidays!

by Anh Le

As we look forward to celebrating Christmas, the annual holiday on December 25th that honors the birth of Jesus Christ, we look back on the blessings of this year and look forward to the new year ahead.

The word, "Christmas," originates from the Middle English, "Christemasse," and Old English, "Cristes moesse," meaning, "Christ's mass." Christmas is also referred to as Yule, Yule Tide, and Xmas. In celebrating Christmas, we share both religious and secular customs: The display of Nativity scenes; Christmas trees, lights, candles, and decorations; the "Star of Christmas" that adorns the Christmas tree; the "Three Wise Men," the exchange of Christmas cards and Christmas gifts among friends, family members, neighbors, and acquaintances; the arrival of Santa Claus to bring gifts to the young children; the red poinsettia, holly, mistletoe, red amaryllis, and Christmas cactus; and the Christmas theme and prayer of "May There Be Goodwill and Peace on Earth."

During this special Holiday Season, we also honor and celebrate other holidays: Kwanzaa; Hannukah; and Diwali. This follows the celebration in the fall of the Islamic holiday, "Ramadan."

Kwanzaa is celebrated each year from December 26 to January 1, to honor African American heritage. The holiday was introduced by Ron Karenga in California in 1966. The word, "Kwanzaa," is derived from the Swahili phrase, "matunda ya kwanza," which means, "first fruits."

Seven principles are celebrated during Kwanzaa: Umoja (Unity),

## Disabilities Education Act Gets New Website

Developmental Disabilities Area Board 10 is proud to announce a free, on-line, self-guided training course that will help parents learn more about the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA 2004). Please go to <http://www.parentideaguide.com> to get started.

There are six complete modules: \*Important Information about Special Education (The Law) \*Preparing for an IEP \*IEP Etiquette \*Assessments \*Strategies for Success \*Having a Problem?

Parents will be able to start their training with any module..

This project was made possible by funding from the Federal Administration on Developmental Disabilities through the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities and was developed under a contract with the USC UCEDD, A University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service.

For more information, please call Area Board 10 at (818) 543-4631.

to strive for unity in the family, community, nation, and race; Kujichagulia (Self Determination), to define ourselves and speak for ourselves; Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility), to build our community together and solve our community's problems together; Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics), to build our own stores, shops, and businesses; Nia (Purpose), to build and develop our community together and uplift it to its greatness; Kuumba (Creativity), to labor together unselfishly and creatively so that we leave our community more beautiful and vibrant than we inherited it; and Imani (Faith), to believe with all our heart in our people, our parents and elders, our teachers, our leaders, the purpose and value of our lives, and the honor of our endeavors. Families decorate households with African objects of art and fresh fruits, and people wear African-style clothing. There are drumming and music, a candle-lighting ritual, and a feast (Karamu).

Hannukah, the "Festival of Lights," is an eight-day Jewish holiday from late November to late December. It celebrates the re-dedication of the Temple in Jerusalem after its destruction by the forces of Antiochus IV, and the "miracle of the container of oil." According to Jewish teachings, at the re-dedication following the victory of the Maccabees over the Seleucid Empire, there was only enough consecrated olive oil to fuel the eternal flame in the Temple for one day. Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days, the typical length of time to press, prepare, and consecrate olive oil. We celebrate Hannukah with the lighting of candles each night in a Hannukah menorah; the singing of special songs and recitation of prayers; eating special meals and fried foods such as "latkes" or potato pancakes; children's playing of the four-sided spinning top, "dreidel," game; and the giving of "gelt" presents.

"Diwali" is a festive holiday which originated in India, and is celebrated by Hindus, Jains, and Sikhs, as well as by Buddhists. Also regarded as the "Festival of Lights," Diwali originated as a harvest festival, during which people expressed their gratitude for the last harvest of the year before winter and prayed for an abundant year ahead. Diwali also celebrates victory over evil, and the removal of spiritual darkness. Celebrations include decorating the home with bright lights, bathing in fragrant oil and the wearing of new clothes, and sharing of sweets and gifts.

We wish each of you and your family and loved ones, and our community a bright and blessed Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hannukah, and Diwali, and a Healthy, Joyful, and Peaceful New Year in 2008!

The Network for Elders provides information, assistance, and referrals for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities. In the Bayview / Hunters Point community, please contact (415) 401-7200. In the Visitation Valley / Portola / Excelsior community, please contact (415) 330-1789.

## Police Commission Subcommittee Meets In Visitation Valley

From Page 1

A strong plea was made to stop the gun sales at the Cow Palace. Another speaker supported a city plan to bring all departments together to be involved in addressing violent behavior issues, not just the police department.

There were a number of comments praising individual officers who are known to relate especially well to young men and to senior citizens, and who write letters of sympathy to victims' families.

There was comment that police officers are people too, and while there are those who have negative impacts, many carry out their jobs in a positive way, and the department's rotation practices often results in losing officers we would like to keep in the neighborhood.

Michael Bennett spoke about the Beacon Weed 'n Seed program, which has several components: projects in which police officers work with community people, establishment of community patrols, and establishment of safe havens throughout the Valley.

Commissioner Sparks spoke about several studies that are currently going on that are intended to change the culture of the S.F. Police Department. These include an evaluation of the boundaries of the police stations, the efficiency of foot patrols, evaluation of the effectiveness of surveillance cameras, and a study of the issue of racially biased policing.

A Washington, D.C., think tank is also engaged to study the culture of the police department, its structure and relationship with the community of San Francisco. Sparks said that new policies



Michael Bennett, Violence Prevention Coordinator at the Visitation Valley Community Beacon Center spoke to the Police Commission on Nov. 1.

will be developed from these studies, and improvements in all aspects of policing in the city are anticipated.

Detailed information about these studies can be found on the Internet at [www.sfpolicereview.org](http://www.sfpolicereview.org).

There is a full description of the Organizational Assessment undertaken by the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF) which was begun in August 2007 and will last for approximately two years.

There is also a survey that is a follow-up to surveys about foot

patrols and boundaries.

This survey will provide input on some of the broader questions regarding what's good and what's not so good about the department and what respondents would like to see in the SFPD.

This is a great opportunity for people to give their input in a safe and effective way. It is hoped that people reading this article will spread the word so that Visitation Valley's voice can count in the policy changes that will be coming forth in the next couple of years.



## "Unsung Heroes" Awarded in Community Celebration

by Anh Le

The 19th Annual "Unsung Heroes" in the African American Community Awards Program was held on Nov. 18 at San Francisco's Downtown Library, with a packed audience of adults and young people celebrating.

Luis Herrera, San Francisco's City librarian, and Linda Brooks-Burton, head librarian at the Bayview Public Library, said that the Unsung Heroes Awards Program was initiated many years ago in a neighborhood branch library, and is to honor people who unselfishly give of their time and energy to make life better for others in the African American community.

The theme of this year's Awards Program was *From Slavery to Freedom: Honoring Historian John Hope Franklin*.

An excerpt of *From Slavery to Freedom* was performed by the African American Shakespeare Company. The audience joined the Vukani Mawethu Choir in joyful singing of, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*. The Praise N Sign Dancers movingly performed several musical pieces.

San Francisco's Board of Supervisors members Sophie Maxwell and Tom Ammiano, and Rose Chung, chief legislative assistant to Supervisor Aaron Peskin, spoke at the Awards Program.

Veronica Dangerfield, who served as emcee of the program, thanked the Golden Gate Section of the National Council of Negro Women, and the African American Interest Group at the San Francisco Public Library for keeping the program's legacy strong and continuing this time honored tradition.

All the *Unsung Heroes* awardees applauded everyone in the audience and all those who work selflessly in the African American community as Unsung Heroes.

2007 *Unsung Heroes* in the African American Community Awardees:

\*Mary L. Booker, a playwright, director, producer, community activist and founder of Infinity Productions, who uses the performing arts to document the Bayview Hunters Point community.

\*Sheryl Davis, an energetic advocate for the Western Addition, working to create opportunities for youth and to make a stronger and healthier



The Vukani Mawethu Choir performed at the "Unsung Heroes" in the African American Community Awards Program on Nov. 18 at the Downtown Library.

community through programs such as Mo' Magic.

\*Dr. Veronica Hunnicut, the Dean of the Southeast Campus of City College and a community organizer and activist who works with and supports various community-based programs in San Francisco.

\*Walter Johnson, a humanitarian whose community work has allowed him to serve in such capacities as a board member, campaign fundraiser, public speaker, tutor and volunteer with many organizations.

\*Anh Le, a community organizer and specialist with the Seniors community, who organized Senior University classes in the Bayview Hunters Point and Western Addition communities and throughout San Francisco to train Seniors and persons with disabilities on Community Organizing, Senior Empowerment, and Senior Leadership; led a protest campaign against FoodsCo Supermarket in the Bayview to demand that it stop selling spoiled foods; and led Seniors to address issues of crime and public safety, MUNI bus transportation, and community and home injury prevention with San Francisco's Mayor, Board of Supervisors, and city officials.

\*Albirta Rose-Eberhardt, a professionally-trained dancer and minister who uses her creativity to preach the "gospel of dance to impoverished youth."

\*Gail Smith, the leader and chair-

person of a task force at the Midway Apartments, where she and her fellow residents are tackling the issue of exposure to toxic wastes at the complex.

\*Mattie Scott and George Jurand, co-founders of The Healing Circle, a support group for parents whose children are the victims of homicide.

\*Brian Thomas, who has placed more than 150 men and women — many from Bayview Hunters Point — in jobs rebuilding the water and sewer systems, and who makes concerted efforts to support these workers so that they are successful employees.

\*Hui Thi Truong who served as a senior volunteer at Senior Action Network (SAN), offering her help and hard work in the Senior University classes for the past three years in both the Bayview and Western Addition communities and throughout San Francisco.

### Posthumous Award

\*Jimmie Wilson Jr., a lifelong advocate for the African American community in the fields of mental health, education, jobs, and affordable housing, who helped to establish the Jackie Robinson Computer Learning Center in Bayview - Hunters Point.

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## Holiday Season Transportation Tips for San Franciscans

The San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) offers the following tips for enjoying the downtown shopping area this holiday season:

\*The following Muni rail lines and bus routes will take you right to Union Square: F-Market, Mason and Hyde Cable Car lines, Muni Metro to Powell Station, 2-Clement, 3-Jackson, 4-Sutter, 9X-San Bruno, 30-Stockton, 45-Union/Stockton and 38-Geary

\*The historic Cable Car and F-Market lines make holiday shopping an excursion that is fun for the whole family.

\*Muni customers and shoppers should be careful of pick-pockets, especially during the holiday season.

\*The SFMTA provides over 7,000 parking spaces in the Union Square area with weekday and weekend rates designed for short-term parking in the following garages: Ellis-O'Farrell (925 spaces); 5th/Mission (2,585 spaces); Moscone Center (732 spaces); Sutter Stockton (1,865 spaces) and Union Square (985 spaces).

\*The least expensive and least crowded place to park near Union Square on weekends: St. Mary's Square Garage, two block east and three blocks north of Union Square on Kearny and Pine streets. Weekend and holiday rates: \$2 for one hour, \$7 per day.

\*Parking garages near Union Square that do not fill up on Saturdays: Hearst Garage on 3rd Street between Mission and Market streets, St. Mary's Square Garage and the Jessie Square Garage on Stevenson Street west of 3rd Street.

\*Reduced Muni fares: Children age 5-17, seniors, and the disabled ride Muni for a third of the regular adult fare. The Adult fare is \$1.50 with a 90-minute transfer. The reduced fare is \$.50 with a 90-minute transfer. These fares are good on all Muni vehicles, except cable cars.

\*Cable Cars are a flat rate of \$5 per trip. Those wishing to make more than two trips should purchase a Muni 1-day Passport for \$11.00. Muni also sells 3-day Passports and 7-day Passports. Check out the SFMTA website, <http://www.sfmta.com/cms/mfares/passports.htm>, for further information.

\*Reduced BART fares: Children age 5-12 and seniors 65 or older can ride BART for one-quarter the normal fare with discount tickets. Discount tickets are available at retail vendors, such as Albertsons, Safeway and Longs Drugs, but not at most BART stations. For ticket vendor info, go to: [www.BART.gov](http://www.BART.gov).

\*Best bicycle parking near Union Square: Union Square Garage, top floor. Free service on a first come, first served basis.

\*The busiest days to shop at Union Square: are Christmas Eve and Dec. 26.

\*Least crowded days of the week to shop at Union Square between Thanksgiving and Christmas: Sundays and Mondays.

\*Read all parking signs carefully before parking. Many downtown parking spaces are designated for commercial vehicle parking, and many spaces become tow-away zones after 3:00 p.m. or 4:00 p.m.

\*If a parking garage is full, garage

attendants will provide maps to nearby garages that have space available. Do not wait outside full garages.

\*For updated free traffic and transit info, go to [www.511.org](http://www.511.org) or call 511.

**Holiday Safety Reminder**  
\*Be alert for pick pockets. Carry wallets in front pockets and close handbags and carry them in front of you in crowds.

\*If you believe you have had a theft on a Muni vehicle, please contact 311 and provide the bus number as well as the date and time.

\*Due to heightened security measures, do not leave bags or parcels unattended at any time.

### Traffic Facilitation

The Department of Parking and Traffic will restrict on-street parking on several downtown streets through New Year's Day in order to increase traffic and transit capacity during the busy holiday shopping season. "Tow Away, No Stopping" signs have been installed on the following streets through Jan. 1:

\*O'Farrell Street, north side, Powell to Grant

\*Stockton Street, east side, Sutter to Market

\*Geary Street, north side, Powell to Mason

### Traffic Control

Traffic Control Officers will be deployed to the Union Square and Moscone Center areas as needed to facilitate traffic flow and ensure pedestrian safety and access.

### Construction Moratorium

In order to facilitate traffic and transit flow, no traffic lane or sidewalk closures will be allowed on business area streets through New Year's Day.

## Visitacion Valley History Project

### More Valley Memories

Memories donated by Valley residents sharing some of their experiences of living here.

"When we moved to Visitacion Valley in 1949 it was open and country-like. Children played on the streets and sidewalks. I miss the sound of children playing. It was so safe that as the children grew older, I worked part-time and didn't lock my door. Neighbors were like family. I still have good neighbors, although not the same. But we accept changes and Vis Valley is still mostly good."

"(I remember) going to school at Our Lady of Visitacion of Sunnydale. Playing baseball at Costa Field behind the church and going to the Dr. Pepper bottling factory to get ice-cold sodas out of the machine. Summers were the best in Vis Valley and the old stores on Leland were great!"

"All Peoples' coalition, between '72 and '75, I belonged to it from Church of the Visitacion on Sunnydale. Father Lacey was a proponent of what it stood for. We needed stop signs on Sunnydale because it was a "racetrack" and dangerous for all trying to cross the street. Nothing was done until a group of APC members in two buses went to a meeting conducted by Mayor Alioto in the Mission. He asked at the end of his talk if anyone had anything to say. Irish, Italian, African-American, Chinese, Samoan — I've probably missed some — but each gave a one-minute speech about stop signs. The mayor was so impressed he told Father Lacey if nothing was done in a week to let him know! We've had stop signs ever since."

"We came here in '37 — of Mexican and Italian heritage. At the time I was one of a handful of Hispanics — mostly Italians and Anglo Saxon people at the time. The neighborhood had a very 'small town' feeling to it, and it seemed as if everyone knew everyone, very friendly. The butcher shop on Leland, there was a counter by the window, kids could sit there while we waited for our moms. The butchers would give us a hot dog to munch on, and they put parsley in with the meat."

The Visitacion Valley History Project invites you to share your memories. Call Betty Parshall, (415) 467-7423 or Edie Epps (415) 467-0236, or you can e-mail [visvalleyhistory@hotmail.com](mailto:visvalleyhistory@hotmail.com)

## Schlage Lock's Historical Significance

by Betty Parshall

The Historic Resources Subcommittee of the Visitacion Valley Citizens Advisory Committee met Thursday, Nov. 8 to continue discussion about the historical aspects of the Schlage Lock site.

Contamination and what the neighborhood would like to see developed at the former industrial site are familiar issues to many in the community, but little discussion has taken place about the historic significance of Schlage Lock and how that history can be preserved for those who live here now and will live here in the future.

Carey & Co., Inc. Architecture was contracted to prepare a Historical Resources Technical Report as part of the Environmental Impact Review process. That report will be reviewed and studied by this subcommittee at future meetings. The report came to the surprising conclusion that the entire site has historic significance due to Schlage Lock's important role in San Francisco's industrial past.

The question that the community must now answer is how can the site's history be preserved for those who live here now and will live here in the future? It should be noted that the original office building at Bayshore and Blanken will be preserved as a community resource but all other buildings must be demolished.

Some of the possibilities for historic preservation discussed include picture exhibits, artifacts from the manufacturing process, a virtual video tour of the buildings, and oral histories of the Schlage employees. Consideration can be given to saving a piece of a building, e.g. a saw tooth roof, and incorporating it into a new structure.

## Forest Products Contribute to Our Lives

The next time you enjoy the comfort of your wood-framed home, Sunday newspaper and favorite catalogs, take a moment to recognize their source — the forest product industry.

Experts say over 5,000 products come from the forests. And while the U.S. population continues to rise, studies suggest that the increasing demand is no threat to our thriving forests.

"The forest products industry should be celebrated," states Steve Rountree, president of the South-

Production of videos and display methods will be done by professionals, but the community can and should be involved in providing the history of Schlage's impact in Visitacion Valley.

Detailed histories of Schlage's founders, architects and officers are available. What are missing are the stories of the workers and others who made Schlage a successful company. When was the period of employment, what was the job performed, what was it like to work there? Family members of employees can offer comments about the effect of having an income from this work. In addition, memories are solicited from those who were affected by Schlage's presence in other ways — small businesses, the bank, and the general community.

The subcommittee meetings are open to the public and will meet monthly on the Thursday prior to the regularly set CAC meeting which is the second Tuesday of the month. All meetings are held at the S.F. Recycling & Disposal Learning Center, 401 Tunnel Ave.

If you or a family member would like to share your stories, memories, and photos contact Russel Morine or Edie Epps, both members of the CAC sub-committee and members of the Visitacion Valley History Project. The immediate intent is to begin compiling a list of people to take part. The actual work will begin, it is hoped, early next year.

Edie Epps at 467-0236 or e-mail [aheins@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aheins@sbcglobal.net), Russel Morine at 656-0540, or e-mail [mmorine@aol.com](mailto:mmorine@aol.com)

To be added to the CAC mailing/email list contact Lead Planner Tom Evans, (415) 749-2539 or email [tom.evans@sfgov.org](mailto:tom.evans@sfgov.org)

eastern Lumber Manufacturers Association. "They've proven themselves to be excellent stewards of the land by ensuring that more trees are planted each year than are harvested, and they use the harvested trees extremely efficiently, utilizing nearly the entire tree to make the products society relies upon for daily life."

Experts say the forest products industry should be celebrated for its excellent stewardship of the land.



## EarthTalk

### Glossy Paper

Dear EarthTalk: I would think that the glossy paper used by most magazines is bad for the environment, yet most publishers still use it, even the outdoors and environmental titles. What's the scoop? Is paper made glossy by using chemicals that are not safe? -Kellina Higgins, via e-mail

It's no secret that glossy coatings on magazine covers make pictures really "pop" and attract the eye, thus helping publications compete for attention on ever more crowded newsstands. According to Jerry Stranahan of Lane Press, a Vermont-based printer that produces some 350 different magazines, publishers are increasingly putting the emphasis on graphics and photography, and glossy papers have become the industry norm, for both covers and interior pages. And, yes, this includes many outdoors and nature titles.

The basic glossy finish of a magazine cover or inside page is usually built into the paper itself at the time of manufacture, and is typically made of either clay or calcium carbonate. From a materials perspective, clay-based kaolin is the more environmentally friendly of the two, though clay makes the re-pulping of paper "gunkier" and thus more difficult to work with in the subsequent recycling process. Calcium carbonate also has its pros and cons: "The calcium is lighter, thus it takes less fuel to transport it, and it acts as a whitener, so less chlorine is needed to bleach the paper," says Frank Locantore, who directs the WoodWise program for the non-profit Coop America. "But it drives the destruction of mountain tops in Vermont and elsewhere in order to get at the mineral."

Other glossy coatings are sometimes applied later at the printer as the last step in the printing process. In addition to enhancing the look of the cover, these coatings are used for the purpose of reducing the scuffing covers endure in handling and through the mail. Publishers generally have three choices: "vamish," "aqueous" or "UV" coatings.

"Vamish" is essentially a clear petroleum based ink (no pigment), and is similar to the other inks that have already been applied to the paper. "Aqueous" coatings are water-based clear inks that use few chemicals but need a lot of heat to dry them, thus entailing greater energy usage. Another option is "UV coating," a very glossy finish applied usually to heavier cover stocks and often used by fashion magazines and others going for a very slick appearance. The "UV" refers to the ultraviolet light used to dry it after application. It consumes less energy than heat, though the UV coatings themselves contain large amounts of petroleum-derived chemicals.

"Magazines want to be competitive on the newsstands, and most need to have a glossy cover in order to do so," says Locantore. "Government," he says, "should create incentives for R&D that develops hazardous chemical-free processes for papermaking and printing." Locantore also says that consumers can play a key role in moving the industry forward by making their preferences for sustainable choices known to the magazines they read and subscribe to. Emails, phone calls or letters to publishers urging greener sourcing and operations will not go unnoticed, he says.

Dear EarthTalk: In lieu of federal action in the U.S. to combat global warming, have any states taken local measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions? -David, Monterey, CA

Though the Bush administration has been slow to even admit that global warming is a serious issue, and has rejected the terms of the Kyoto Protocol (an international agreement calling on developed nations to curb greenhouse gas emissions), more than 30 U.S. states have passed legislation and/or formed regional coalitions on their own to promote energy efficiency and reduce the emis-

sions that cause global warming.

The leading state in the battle against climate change is California, which as early as 2002 began calling on carmakers to reduce the greenhouse gases generated by new vehicles sold there. In 2003, California joined neighbors Oregon and Washington in laying out a set of recommendations for how states could combat global warming by setting emissions reduction targets for state vehicle fleets and enacting energy efficiency standards for a wide range of other products. By the end of 2004, the west coast triumvirate had jointly adopted the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions upwards of 15 percent by 2015.

Always pushing the envelope, California then adopted a controversial measure requiring automakers to reduce their vehicles' greenhouse gas emissions 30 percent by 2016. Since then, 14 other states—Arizona, Connecticut, Florida, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont and Washington—have adopted California's tough standards. With Canada's government following suit in 2004, some 40 percent of North America's new car fleet could be much cleaner within a decade—although carmakers are fighting the proposal tooth and nail.

Beyond automotive emissions, California is leading the charge against global warming in other ways.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger issued an executive order in 2004 call-

ing for reducing overall greenhouse gas emissions statewide by 80 percent over five decades. And in 2006 the state assembly passed its landmark Global Warming Solutions Act limiting the output of greenhouse gases thereto 1990 levels by 2020. California is the world's sixth largest economy and 12th largest producer of greenhouse gases, so its proactive stance should have a large impact on overall efforts to mitigate climate change.

Other efforts are underway as well. In 2006, seven northeastern states formed the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to create a system of economic incentives for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Each participating state—Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York and Vermont—has agreed to stabilize current emissions through 2015 followed by a 10 percent reduction over the following five years. Meanwhile 18 states, led by New York, Hawaii, Maine and California, have legislated that some of the electricity they consume must come from non-polluting renewable sources.

Given the groundswell of action to mitigate global warming at the state level—more than half of the U.S. population lives in states where reductions in greenhouse gas emissions are or will become mandatory—America may be able to meet the requirements laid out by the Kyoto Protocol, even without federal participation.

Send it to: EarthTalk, c/o The Environmental Magazine, P.O. Box 5098, Westport, CT 06881; submit your question at: [earthtalk@emagazine.com](mailto:earthtalk@emagazine.com); [earthtalk.html](http://earthtalk.html); or: [earthtalk@emagazine.com](http://earthtalk@emagazine.com).

### Nation's First

## Citywide Program Collects Waste Grease

In an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, combat climate change and curb the growing number of clogged sewers plaguing City residents and businesses, Mayor Gavin Newsom on Nov. 20 launched an innovative solution to collect fats, oil and grease (FOG) free of charge from City restaurants and turn them into biofuel for City-owned vehicles.

SFGreasecycle is the nation's first citywide program to turn FOG into fuel for municipal fleets and will save residents and businesses money, unclog City sewers, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The first SFGreasecycle restaurant waste grease pickup occurred on Nov. 20 at Puccini and Pinetti in Union Square.

"San Francisco's entrepreneurial and environmental spirit is once again front and center with our innovative biodiesel creation program," said Mayor Newsom. "Our program will serve as a model for cities throughout the world who aim to transform their grease waste into useable, sustainable energy."

SFGreasecycle is a program that was developed by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) as a sustainable alternative to combat sewer blockages caused in part by excess cooking oils and fats discharged down drains from restaurants and homes. Each year, the SFPUC estimates that 50 percent of sewer emergency calls are related to backups caused by grease blockages

costing their ratepayers \$3.5 million a year in repairs.

"We're taking a serious City problem and using the best available technology to save our ratepayers' money and do something good for the environment," said SFPUC General Manager Susan Leal. "For every five gallons of grease we collect and keep out of our sewers, we displace five gallons of petroleum diesel. That is a net 100 pound reduction in carbon emission."

San Francisco, a national leader in initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, has a City fleet of more than 1600 diesel vehicles being retrofitted to accept the new biofuel source. In 2006, Mayor Newsom signed an executive directive mandating that the entire city fleet be converted by Dec. 31, 2007.

The City is currently on pace to meet that goal. Initially, biodiesel for the City fleet will be purchased through an existing city contract, with the future plan to procure all biodiesel generated from San Francisco's restaurant waste oil stream.

Recycled FOG from San Francisco restaurants is estimated to generate 1.5 million gallons of biofuel each year; 59 restaurants had already signed up for the SFGreasecycle program before its launch with more expressing interest every day.

For more information or to sign up for the SFPUC's free restaurant waste oil collection service, please call (415) 695-7366 or visit [sfgreasecycle.org](http://sfgreasecycle.org).

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## Ways to Manage Finances and Avoid Post-Holiday Regrets

The holidays are upon us, bringing all those images and sensations we cherish — the glow of the menorah, the fragrance of home-cooked meals and sugar cookies, and the sounds of the season in holiday songs, laughter, and shrieks of joy from kids discovering Santa's generosity. But for many of us there are a few not-so-joyous holiday sights (a purse overflowing with credit card receipts) and sounds (the ca-ching! of the cash registers marking our escalating debt). These negatives can easily outweigh all that we love about the holiday season, especially when we consider the financial consequences we'll still be suffering long after the last gift is opened.

"Americans already spend more than they can afford," says Tyson, author of the new book *Let's Get Real About Money! Profit from the Habits of the Best Personal Finance Managers* (FT Press, \$19.99). "Our national personal savings rate is negative 1 percent. Many people already owe money going into the holiday season so the annual shopping spree just adds insult to injury."

But despite the fact that many of our coffers aren't exactly bubbling over, a recent Gallup Poll shows that few of us are planning to temper our holiday spending. The poll shows that on average Americans expect to spend around \$909 on holiday gifts this year. Whether it's a dedication to the gift-giving tradition, a sense of obligation, or a feeling that the holidays entitle us to have a little more fun than usual, too many of us seem to turn a blind eye to the bank-busting reality of all that spending.

Guess what? You don't have to join in the spending frenzy. What if you could have a wonderful, memorable holiday and avoid the financial hang-over afterwards? Tyson provides great tips on how to keep your holiday spending in check.

Find an alternative to gift-giving during the holidays. Many people feel they have to give gifts during the holidays, either because it's a family tradition or because they know their friends and relatives have gotten gifts for them. There are plenty of great ways to trade in this tradition for another one that is even more meaningful, and chances are your family and friends will be happy to save gift-buying dough as well. "Instead of exchanging gifts, your family might want to pool their money and spend the money on a holiday outing," says Tyson. "If you have kids, you'll probably want to get them a little something, but set strict spending limits. Instead of piling up the toys, let each child choose an outing or event that she gets to spend with you one-on-one. They'll look back on the valuable time you've spent together a lot more fondly than they will any toy or video game they use a couple of times and then toss aside."

If you must buy gifts, cut your expenses elsewhere. Perhaps you'd rather dine out or go to the movies less, or maybe you can forego that new pair of shoes you've been wanting for yourself in order to afford gifts for the grandparents. "It doesn't matter where you make cuts, just that you make them," says Tyson. "Keeping your other spending under control while you're out there doing your shopping can be a challenge, but just keep repeating to yourself the importance of not over-spending. That way when it comes time to actually pass out those presents you've purchased you can do it without grimacing as you think about the damage they did to your bank account."

Set a budget and keep tabs on what you are spending. While you're doing your holiday shopping, your new best friends should be your checkbook register, credit card statements, and all of your receipts. It's easy to get into a spending rhythm when shopping for yourself or others, and that's why you need to physically write down every purchase you make and make sure you don't go over your budget. "When you start to add up everything you're spending, you may be shocked at what all those expenses from this store and that store add up to be," says Tyson. "And don't forget about all those 'necessary' holiday extras. Most people don't budget their shopping and don't realize that by the time you buy all the presents, plus wrapping paper, cards, decorations, etc., it's added up to a ridiculous amount. Having a budget that you know you must stick to will help keep your impulse spending from getting out of hand and will help you hone in on the most reasonably priced holiday items."

Plan what you are going to buy, and don't get any extras! Particularly during the holidays companies pull out their most appealing of packaging in the hopes of snagging the eyes of shoppers. That's why along with your budget, you're going to want to take an exact list of what you want to buy for your gift recipients. Don't go shopping for someone's gift until you know exactly what you are going to buy. "It's very easy to go in with no plan, see something you like, and get it simply because you have no idea what else to get for a hard-to-buy-for relative despite the gift's significant price tag," says Tyson. "Another temptation that the list will help you squelch is the desire to buy those little knickknacks here and there that you think will make nice small additions to the gifts you've purchased. Very rarely are things like this necessary, and if you've got your list in hand, it will be easier for you to pass them by without hesitation."

Use the season to set a good example for your kids. Your kids learn

about money from you. And if they see you spending left and right during the holiday season, the lesson they come away with isn't going to be a good one. During the holidays it's very easy for the "gimmee gimmee gimmee" materialistic attitude to get out of control. After all, kids are bombarded with constant advertisements for toys, clothes, and the latest gadgets you can be guaranteed they'll want (or at least think they do!). "There's plenty you can do to help them appreciate the true meaning of the holidays," says Tyson. "Have them give some of their money to a local charity, participate in a program where they buy and wrap gifts for underprivileged kids, or volunteer at a soup kitchen. It can be an eye-opening experience for kids to see that not everyone has enough money to have an enjoyable holiday."

Watch out for deals that seem too good to be true. Retailers run all sorts of specials to induce consumers to buy now, and the holidays offer these companies easy prey in the form of deal-seeking, cash-strapped consumers. For example, furniture stores frequently offer that if you buy now, you don't have to pay a thing for a year, and you might even get free delivery. This sort of "push" marketing can make it harder for you to say no.

"This is just one example of how stores coax in shoppers," says Tyson. "Always remember that free financing, for say a year, is not a huge cost to the dealer, but it is a cost, and if you forgo it, you should be able to negotiate a lower purchase price. Retailers find that buyers are less likely to negotiate the price if they are getting a short-term financing break. Read the fine print on any deal you are considering taking before you go to the store to make the purchase. It can be even harder to say no once you get to the store, so you'll want to know what you are in for before you get there."

Leave the plastic at home. Many of us can explain away spending so much on gifts because we simply charge everything and reason that we can pay it off gradually after the holidays. This is a great way to create a never-ending cycle of consumer debt for yourself. It only creates unnecessary financial stress for you after the holidays. "Use your budget to figure out how you can purchase the gifts you want to purchase without putting them on your credit card," says Tyson. "If you are so cash-strapped that you think it will be difficult to avoid charging gifts, then you may want to sit down with other friends and family and propose a limit to how much

gifts can cost this year — or propose no adult gift exchanges at all. Far from being disappointed, it's likely they'll view this reprieve from gift-buying as a gift in its own right."

Invest in your kids' financial futures. It may not seem as exciting to your kids as a new iPod, but a contribution to their financial well-being will be appreciated long after such expensive "toys" are obsolete. "Have the grandparents contribute to a college tuition fund or savings account rather than buy them more stuff they don't need," suggests Tyson. "Or make one of your gifts to your kids a stock fund portfolio that can start accruing now. Also make them aware of the budgets and tools you are using to keep your spending in check. The holidays are a great time for them to truly learn that money doesn't grow on trees."

Give the gift of time to your kids. Often parents buy gifts for their kids with the best of intentions. Either you don't want to deprive them of the toys and gadgets all of their friends have, or you want to give them the things you didn't have as a kid. "Both of these tendencies are perfectly understandable, but I've found that parents who buy too much for their kids often have difficulty changing the habit," says Tyson. "The holiday season offers great opportunities for you to show your kids how much you love and care for them. For example, you can make time with them each week to watch a holiday film or TV show, go on a walk to see your neighbors' holiday lights and decorations, or emphasize that giving back message again and take them caroling at a local retirement home. All of these activities cost next to nothing, and they will be fun for the kids and for you!"

Remember that meaningful gifts don't necessarily have a big price tag. "Sure, it might be nice to give your mom a brand new TV, but there are other things out there that will be even more meaningful and enjoyable for her — like a photo album with candid shots of the grandkids or something they've made for her themselves," says Tyson. "If you are looking to give a gift that truly means something and that will keep its value for years to come, you are better off looking for

nonmaterial gifts to give than something your gift recipients could get themselves at the local big box store."

"Money can easily become the focus of the holidays when it should be the last thing you are thinking about," says Tyson. "By keeping your spending under control, you can have a great holiday and avoid the sick feeling in the pit of your stomach that occurs when you start getting those credit card bills in the mail. If you prepare properly, you can achieve a happy balance of spending and saving during the holiday season. That's a great gift in and of itself, for both you and the people you love."

## Book Review

### Military Misdemeanors

Bungled cover-ups, acts of blind incompetence, miscarriages of justice and downright stupidity are among the scandals which have helped to make the world's armed forces the much loved (and sometimes ridiculed) institutions they are today in an interesting little book called *Military Misdemeanors* (Osprey Publishing, \$16.95).

Readers can take an irreverent look at the public outcries that both governments and soldiers would rather we forget with author Terry Crowdy, who has an unconventional background for a historian. Former bassist in a rock group and a history enthusiast since childhood, he has long been fascinated by different aspects of military history and takes great pleasure in delving into obscure sources to pluck out the most astonishing and revealing stories throughout history. The author of a number of articles and books, including *The Enemy Within: A History of Espionage*, he lives in Kent, UK.

Packed with more than 60 military mishaps from ancient times to the present day, *Military Misdemeanors* shows that no military organization is safe from exposure. Learn the truth about Nelson and Lady Hamilton, the drafting of Heavyweight Champ Muhammad Ali, the sinking of Rainbow Warrior and satanism in the Royal Navy as you step back through the pages of history and see how corruption, bigotry, lust, vanity, incompetence and the occasional bout of insanity have colored conduct throughout time.

## Cooking Corner

### Baked Risotto Primavera

1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil; 2 medium onions, chopped (about 1-1/2 cups); 1 cup short- or medium-grain brown rice; 3 cloves garlic, minced; 1/2 cup dry white wine; two 14-1/2-ounce cans reduced-sodium chicken broth or 3-1/2 cups vegetable broth; 8 ounces asparagus, ends trimmed, cut into 1-inch pieces (2 cups); 1 cup sugar snap peas or snow peas, trimmed, cut into 1-inch pieces; 1 cup diced red bell pepper (1 medium); 1-1/2 cups freshly grated Parmesan cheese (3-1/2 ounces); 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley; 1/4 cup chopped fresh chives; 1 to 2 teaspoons freshly grated lemon zest, preferably organic; freshly ground pepper to taste.

Preheat oven to 425 degrees F. Heat olive oil in a Dutch oven or ovenproof deep saute pan over medium heat. Add onions and cook, stirring occasionally, until softened, 3 to 5 minutes.

Stir in brown rice and garlic. Cook, stirring, 1 to 2 minutes. Stir in wine and simmer until it has mostly evaporated. Add broth and bring to a boil. Cover the pan and transfer to the oven.

Bake until the rice is just tender, 50 minutes to 1 hour. Shortly before the risotto is done, steam asparagus, peas and bell pepper until crisp-tender, about 4 minutes.

Fold the steamed vegetables, Parmesan, parsley, chives, lemon zest and pepper into the risotto. Makes 6 servings.

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## Visitation Valley Police Report

### Police Cases

\*On Oct. 15 at 9:15 a.m., Bayview officers responded to a call of someone trying to break into a car on the 200 block of Cambridge Street. An officer spotted the getaway vehicle on Williams Street near the Bayview Station, and detained the occupants. A witness was brought to where the officer had the possible suspects detained. The witness positively identified the suspects as the ones that he saw. One person was cited and released for misdemeanor vandalism.

\*On Oct. 15 between 3 and 8 p.m., there were two robberies that had similar method operand in the Portola District. The first incident occurred at 3 p.m. on the 700 block of Burrows Street. The victim got out of his car and was approached by two males that asked if he had a cell phone. The victim said "No," and was then punched in the face by one of the suspects. The victim fell to the ground, and the two suspects went through his pocket and took his wallet. They fled in a maroon Dodge Durango. The victim suffered from swelling to his face from the punch. The second incident occurred at 8 p.m. on Silver Avenue and Amherst Street. The victim had just gotten off the bus and was approached by three males. One of the males put his hand over the victim's mouth and told him to be quiet. The victim was thrown to the ground. The remaining suspect took the victim's wallet and cell phone from his pocket. The suspects fled in a white Japanese sedan. The suspects were described as being black males in their early 20s.

\*On Oct. 21 at 10:11 a.m., police detailed to the San Bruno Avenue Fair were notified that a person with a pit bull at San Bruno Avenue and Bacon Street was threatening to sic the dog on horses at the pony ride as well as throwing debris at them. When the police located the man he had an open container of malt liquor, and was clearly intoxicated. He was

asked for identification and he responded, "What did I do? Why don't you go find a murderer?" The man gave the police a name but a record could not be found. He was booked for public intoxication under the name of John Doe.

\*On Oct. 21 at 10:56 a.m., at Bacon Street and San Bruno Avenue, officers attempted to pull over a Firebird for a minor traffic violation. The Firebird sped away and ran stop signs to evade police. A pursuit was not initiated because of concern for the public's safety. The Firebird was located parked in a grassy field of McLaren Park near Harvard Street. The Firebird tore the grass up. The passenger was quickly detained. The driver was missing. Additional units arrived on scene and searched the area. Witnesses told the police that they saw the driver running away from the car and disrobing, so he would not be as easily recognized. The suspect was located in a parking lot of McLaren Park and was detained. He was driving with a suspended license. The driver was charged with numerous traffic violations and felony vandalism for ripping up the grass. The passenger was released.

\*On Oct. 24 at 1:44 p.m., an officer and posse on the 100 block of Blythdale Avenue saw a man in violation of a court order directing him to stay away from the Sunnysdale Housing Development. The Hunters Point neighborhood man was arrested and booked at Ingleside Station. At 1:44 p.m. on the first block of Desmond Street, officers contacted two men as they sat on a staircase. One man had an opened beer can. The San Francisco man was in possession of a crack pipe. He was cited for the offense. At 7:45 p.m. on Santos Street at Brookdale Avenue, an officer stopped a man as he ran from uniformed officers. The man had a loaded pistol tucked into his waistband. The Sunnysdale neighborhood man was booked at Ingleside Station. At about 8:20 p.m. shots were fired on the 200 block of Rey Street. A 27 year-old resident of that block was struck in the leg by a bullet. Her wound is not life threatening. The suspects were described as three black male teenagers in a dark colored Ford Taurus. At 8:20 p.m. on Blythdale Avenue and Hahn Street while investigating the shooting described above, officers stopped a car. The driver was taken into custody for a South San Francisco warrant. The San Francisco woman was booked at Ingleside Station.

### Police Summaries

\*Oct. 16: 1600 Sunnysdale Ave., burglary of apartment house, unlawful entry.  
\*Oct. 16: Woolsey St., near Somerset St., stolen automobile.  
\*Oct. 17: 1800 block of Sunnysdale Ave., residential burglary, entry via unlocked window, desktop computer stolen.  
\*Oct. 17: 100 block of Schwerin Street, residential burglary, TV and computer taken.  
\*Oct. 17: Santos St. and Brookdale Ave., stolen

vehicle, '89 Toyota  
\*Oct. 17: 200 block of Blythdale Ave., recovered vehicle, '05 Nissan.  
\*Oct. 17: Mansell and Somerset Sts., possession of marijuana  
\*Oct. 17: 1500 Sunnysdale Ave., burglary of residence, forcible entry.  
\*Oct. 18: Geneva Ave. near Brookdale Ave., burglary of residence, unlawful entry  
\*Oct. 19: 1500 block of Sunnysdale Ave., residential burglary  
\*Oct. 19: 2000 block of Sunnysdale Ave., arson of a vehicle.  
\*Oct. 19: 3800 block of San Bruno Ave., fraud case  
\*Oct. 19: Bacon and Hamilton Sts., stolen automobile  
\*Oct. 19: Brussels and Felton Sts., robbery, bodily force.  
\*Oct. 20: Bacon St. and San Bruno Ave., malicious mischief, vandalism  
\*Oct. 21: Sunnysdale Ave. and Hahn St., aggravated assault with gun  
\*Oct. 21: Karen Ct. near Somerset St., stolen automobile.  
\*Oct. 22: 1600 Sunnysdale Ave., burglary of residence, unlawful entry.  
\*Oct. 23: San Bruno near Campbell Ave., petty theft from locked auto  
\*Oct. 23: Teddy Ave. near Alpha St., burglary of residence, forcible entry  
\*Oct. 23: First Block of Desmond St., possession of narcotics paraphernalia.  
\*Oct. 23: Sawyer St. between Leland and Visitation Aves., robbery on street, strongarm  
\*Oct. 24: 100 block of Teddy Ave., residential burglary, front door forced open, cash and jewelry taken.  
\*Oct. 24: 200 block of Rey St., aggravated assault, shooting  
\*Oct. 24: 1600 Sunnysdale Ave., robbery on street, strongarm  
\*Oct. 24: Hamilton and Bacon Sts., petty theft from locked auto  
\*Oct. 25: Sunnysdale Ave. and Desmond St., evading a police officer (motorist in Toyota Solara fled the police)  
\*Oct. 26: 100 block of Brookdale Ave., battery  
\*Oct. 26: 340 p.m., First block of Leland Ave., man arrested for domestic violence.  
\*Oct. 26: Tioga Ave. and Rutland St., petty theft from unlocked auto.  
\*Oct. 26: 1:30 p.m., Leland Ave. and Rutland St., aggravated assault with bodily force  
\*Oct. 26: 200 block of Leland Ave., Rutland St., attempted robbery with bodily force.  
\*Oct. 26: 4 p.m., Unit block of Brookdale Ave., residential burglary  
\*Oct. 26: 6 p.m., Unit block of Raymond Ave., residential burglary  
\*Oct. 26: 7:45 p.m., Unit block of Garrison Ave., domestic violence  
\*Oct. 26: 10:27 p.m., Velasco and Santos Sts., aggravated assault, two victims shot as they sat in their car  
\*Oct. 27: Hahn St. near Sunnysdale Ave., battery  
\*Oct. 27: 1600 block of Sunnysdale Ave., burglary of residence, forcible entry  
\*Oct. 27: Santos St. and Velasco Ave., robbery on street with gun.  
\*Oct. 27: Schwerin St. and Garrison Ave., battery  
\*Oct. 27: Santos St. near Sunnysdale Ave., grand theft purses/natch  
\*Oct. 27: 3:30 a.m., Girard and Ward Sts., domestic violence.  
\*Oct. 27: 9:30 a.m., Unit block of Brookdale Ave., domestic violence.  
\*Oct. 27: 7 p.m., Schwerin St. and Velasco Ave., aggravated assault.  
\*Oct. 27: 11:30 p.m., Schwerin St. and Velasco Ave., armed robbery, one suspect, Asian male, dressed in black.  
\*Oct. 27: 1600 block of Sunnysdale Ave., rape suspects, two black males  
\*Oct. 28: Ward and Brussels St., grand theft from locked auto.  
\*Oct. 28: 5 p.m., 200 block of Santos St., Bayview man arrested for violation of stayaway order  
\*Oct. 28: 7:45 p.m., 1700 block of Sunnysdale Ave., woman arrested for misdemeanor S.F. warrant.  
\*Oct. 28: 8:20 p.m., Unit block of Rey St., robbery, suspect a black male threatened victim with hammer  
\*Oct. 29: 2 a.m., 1000 block of Goettingen St., domestic violence.  
\*Oct. 29: 4:55 p.m., 900 block of Somerset St., Visitation Valley man cited for allowing his dog to attack another dog  
\*Oct. 29: San Bruno Ave. near Harkness Ave., petty

theft from locked auto  
\*Oct. 29: San Bruno Ave. near Harkness Ave., malicious mischief, vandalism of vehicles.  
\*Oct. 29: Felton and Goettingen Sts., stolen automobile  
\*Oct. 30: 1600 block of Sunnysdale Ave., burglary of apartment house, forcible entry  
\*Oct. 30: 12 noon, 1400 block of Sunnysdale Ave., Visitation Valley man arrested for domestic violence  
\*Oct. 30: 1:15 p.m., 1700 block of Sunnysdale Ave., Visitation Valley man arrested for Daly City felony warrant.  
\*Oct. 30: 3 p.m., Rutland St. and Arleta Ave., Patterson man arrested for Solano County warrant.  
\*Oct. 30: 9:50 p.m., 3700 block of San Bruno Ave., residential burglary  
\*Oct. 30: 100 block of Tucker Ave., recovered vehicle, '05 Toyota Corolla  
\*Oct. 31: First block of Blythdale Ave., robbery on street with gun  
\*Oct. 31: 2:40 a.m., 600 block of Velasco Ave., residential burglary, suspect was black male 25-30 years old.  
\*Oct. 31: 1:30 p.m., 1700 block of Sunnysdale Ave., residential burglary  
\*Nov. 1: 100 block of Blythdale Ave., aggravated assault with bodily force  
\*Nov. 1: Brookdale Ave. and Santos St., grand theft from person  
\*Nov. 1: San Bruno Ave. and Woolsey St., stolen automobile  
\*Nov. 1: 3:45 p.m., Santos St. and Brookdale Ave., Visitation Valley juvenile arrested for grand theft and narcotics charges.  
\*Nov. 1: 6:55 p.m., Hahn St. and Visitation Ave., Visitation Valley woman arrested on Daly City P.D. warrant.  
\*Nov. 1: 10:40 p.m., Unit block of Blythdale Ave., Visitation Valley man arrested for domestic violence  
\*Nov. 1: 200 block of Desmond St., stolen vehicle, '95 Honda Civic.  
\*Nov. 2: 5:50 p.m., Sunnysdale Ave. and Hahn St., Mission District man arrested for S.F. narcotics warrant.  
\*Nov. 3: 2:15 p.m., 100 block of Brookdale Ave., Visitation Valley juvenile cited for stolen vehicle.  
\*Nov. 3: 5:40 a.m., 1900 block of Sunnysdale Ave., domestic violence.  
\*Nov. 3: 8:40 p.m., 1400 Sunnysdale Ave., shots fired.  
\*Nov. 3: Merrill and Hale Sts., robbery on street with gun  
\*Nov. 3: Bacon and Hamilton Sts., stolen automobile.  
\*Nov. 3: Woolsey and Girard Sts., aggravated assault with bodily force  
\*Nov. 3: Woolsey and Girard Sts., possession of narcotics paraphernalia  
\*Nov. 3: Somerset near Mansell St., aggravated assault with deadly weapon  
\*Nov. 4: San Bruno Ave. near Harkness Ave., malicious mischief, breaking windows  
\*Nov. 5: San Bruno Ave. and Bacon St., possession of base/rock cocaine.  
\*Nov. 5: unit block of Leland Ave., battery  
\*Nov. 5: 200 block of Teddy Ave., stolen automobile

\*Nov. 6: 8:40 a.m., Unit block of Blythdale Ave., Visitation Valley juvenile cited for battery and disturbing the peace.  
\*Nov. 6: 12 noon, 100 block of Cora St., Visitation Valley man arrested for domestic violence  
\*Nov. 6: 11:15 p.m., 1800 block of Sunnysdale Ave., domestic violence.  
\*Nov. 6: 200 block of Teddy Ave., stolen vehicle, '89 Toyota Camry  
\*Nov. 6: 300 block of Sunrise Way, recovered vehicle, '95 Acura Integra  
\*Nov. 6: Blythdale Ave. and Hahn St., assault  
\*Nov. 6: Girard St. near Bacon St., malicious mischief, graffiti.  
\*Nov. 7: 1:40 p.m., 1540 Sunnysdale Ave., Visitation Valley man and Tenderloin man arrested on gun charges.  
\*Nov. 7: San Bruno Ave., near Burrows St., burglary, store under construction, forcible entry  
\*Nov. 7: Felton St. near Brussels St., stolen automobile.  
\*Nov. 8: 3:33 p.m., 100 block of Britton St., Visitation Valley man arrested for felony S.F. warrant.  
\*Nov. 8: 1:25 p.m., 1800 block of Sunnysdale Ave., attempted armed robbery.  
\*Nov. 9: 2:15 p.m., Rey and Garrison Sts., Antioch man arrested for trespassing  
\*Nov. 9: 3:15 p.m., 200 block of Blythdale Ave., residential burglary  
\*Nov. 10: 8:40 a.m., 100 block of Rey St., aggravated assault.  
\*Nov. 10: 12:26 p.m., 100 block of Cambridge St., Portola District man arrested for domestic violence and narcotics charges.  
\*Nov. 11: 5 a.m., 2100 block of Bayshore Blvd., Bayview man arrested for domestic violence  
\*Nov. 11: 6:43 a.m., 2800 block of San Bruno Ave., Bayview man arrested for driving under the influence.  
\*Nov. 11: 10:35 a.m., 1800 block of Sunnysdale Ave., Visitation Valley man arrested for domestic violence  
\*Nov. 11: 11 a.m., 100 block of Blythdale Ave., residential burglary.  
\*Nov. 11: 8:40 p.m., Unit block of Leland Ave., attempted armed robbery  
\*Nov. 11: 600 block of Sawyer St., stolen vehicle, '80 Toyota truck.  
\*Nov. 12: 7:50 a.m., McLaren Park, three juveniles admonished for possessing air guns  
\*Nov. 12: 12:40 p.m., Brookdale Ave. and Santos St., Visitation Valley juvenile cited for possessing marijuana and resisting arrest.  
\*Nov. 12: 3:30 p.m., 100 block of Britton St., Visitation Valley woman arrested for felony battery  
\*Nov. 12: 9:30 p.m., 100 block of Brookdale Ave., Hunters Point District woman cited for violating a court order.  
\*Nov. 12: 12:40 a.m., 3600 block of Mission St., strong arm robbery.  
\*Nov. 12: 7:45 p.m., 1900 block of Sunnysdale Ave., domestic violence.  
\*Nov. 12: 1800 block of Burrows St., recovered vehicles, '95 Honda Civic.  
Both Captain Denis O'Leary of Ingleside Station and Captain Albert Pardini of Bayview Station contributed to this report.

### Grapevine Classified

IT'S NOT SMART to do nothing when you have something negative in your life. The issue somehow affects and becomes everybody's problem.

\*Getting nervous and upset.  
\*Feeling sick on a regular basis.  
\*Feeling like punching out something or someone.  
\*Feeling like screaming  
\*Can't sleep.  
\*Watching television all night.  
\*Simply not in a happy frame of mind.  
\*Problem making the right choices.

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, we need to talk with you. Visitation Valley Jobs, Education and Training center offers advocacy and mediation services relating to all types of quality-of-life issues. Court-mandated programs available. Service and trust is our commitment to the community. Contact Marjorie Ann Williams, Counselor at (415) 239-2877.

**VVCC BOARD MEETINGS:** Visitation Valley Community Center (VVCC) regular monthly Board meetings, held the 4th Thursday of each month at 6 p.m., except December and May, are open to the public. Board members are selected by the members of the community center with dues currently paid, at the Annual Membership meeting held the 3rd Saturday in May each year. Any vacancies that occur on the Board due to uncompleted 3-year terms of membership are filled by appointment of the remaining Board members. At least 75% of our Board members must reside in Visitation Valley. Persons interested in Board membership are encouraged to send a letter of interest to: Board of Directors Development Committee, Visitation Valley Community Center, 50 Raymond Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134. Please let the Board know what you could contribute that will enhance and improve our organization for better service to our community. You will be contacted and your letter will be submitted to the Board for consideration at either the next Annual election or of any available open positions that might occur within the coming year.

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED for VVCC After School Program** to tutor children ages 5-14 at one of our 11 sites in the Visitation Valley area. Interested persons contact Dee Smith, VVCC After School coordinator (415) 585-2059.

**GRAPEVINE DISPLAY ADVERTISING:** new limited-time rates: Full Page \$60, 1/2 Page \$33.75, 1/4 Page \$18.75, 1/8 Page \$10, 1/12 Page \$8, 1/16 Page \$6. Generous discount for three or more insertions. Call (415) 467-9300 for more details. **Classified:** 20 words for \$1. Extra line 50 cents. Ad and payments should be received by 15th of prior month at Visitation Valley Grapevine, 50 Raymond Ave., San Francisco, CA 94134.

## Visitation Valley Community Center Senior Program

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The Rev. Dr. Jerry O. Resus, Minister

Church School Classes: 9:15 a.m.  
Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study: 11:00 a.m.  
Friday Bible Fellowship: 7:30 p.m.  
Saturday Choir Rehearsal: 10:00 a.m.

You are cordially welcome to join us for study, worship, fellowship and service. We seek to teach the Bible and to lift up Jesus Christ so He can draw all persons to Himself.

Come to Church This Week



## Diabetes Education Launched in the Bayview and Hunters Point Community

VISITACION VALLEY GRAPEVINE - DECEMBER 2007 - 11

by Anh Le

The Arthur H. Coleman Medical Center has launched a new Diabetes Education Program for residents in San Francisco's Bayview and Hunters Point community.

Dr. Marilyn Metz, the family medicine physician at the Coleman Medical Center, gave a special presentation on the Diabetes Education Program during the Network for Elders' Bayview and Hunters Point District Advisory Council meeting on Oct. 12.

Dr. Metz talked about the program's series of eight weekly classes, which began on Sept. 24. Designed primarily for adults with diabetes, the free classes provide essential information covering the causes and consequences of diabetes, how to prevent its complications, and how to live a

long, healthy, and active life with diabetes.

The classes are taught by Dr. Metz and Marsha Nottage, a registered nurse and certified diabetes educator.

Dr. Metz said that there are two types of diabetes. In Type 1 diabetes, the disease usually occurs in childhood, when the afflicted young person's body loses the ability to produce insulin. People with Type 1 diabetes must take insulin shots for the rest of their lives, and — short of tissue transplantation with insulin-making cells — there is no cure for this type of diabetes.

In Type 2 diabetes, usually referred to as Adult Onset Diabetes, the body loses the ability to use the insulin that the pancreas, an internal organ, produces. At the cellular level in Type 2 diabetes,

the body becomes resistant to insulin, and that results in high levels of sugar that continuously circulate in the blood; these abnormally high blood sugar levels cause damage to the body's blood vessels. The healthy range for the sugar level in the blood should be between 60 and 150.

Type 2 diabetes can be treated with prescription medication. Dr. Metz stated that it is also addressed through weight loss, sound control of diet, and regular exercise. If a person is overweight, the issue of body weight should be dealt with. Dr. Metz emphasized the importance of eating a healthy diet. A diet which includes at least 20 grams of fiber daily is important. Regular exercise can include walking, and simple exercises to build and maintain the

body's muscle strength.

Dr. Metz stated that the prevalence of Type 2 diabetes has increased by more than 70 percent in the last decade. African Americans and Native Americans carry more than twice the risk of incurring diabetes than other groups. Latinos and people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent also have higher risks of developing diabetes.

Symptoms of diabetes include unintentional weight loss, increased thirst, increased urination, blurry vision, fatigue, and tingling or numbness in the hands and feet (due to neuropathy). Possible long term complications from diabetes include blindness, kidney failure, and amputation of toes or a leg. Diabetes also substantially increases the risk of stroke and heart attack.

The Diabetes Education classes will continue at the Coleman Medical Center on an ongoing basis. To obtain information or to register for the classes, please contact Marsha Nottage, RN, CDE at: The Arthur H. Coleman Medical Center, 6301 Third St., 1st Floor, San Francisco, CA 94124, (415) 467-1400.

Network for Elders provides free Information, Referral Services, and Assistance for Seniors and People with Disabilities at the following Resource Centers in San Francisco: \*Network for Elders Bayview and Hunters Point Resource Center: (415) 401-7200

\*Network for Elders Visitacion Valley / Exelsior / Portola Resource Center: (415) 330-1789

\*Network for Elders Oceanview / Mission / Ingleside / St. Francis Wood / Miraloma Park Resource Center: (415) 587-7500.

The Network for Elders provides information, assistance, and referrals for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities. In the Bayview / Hunters Point community, please contact: (415) 401-7200. In the Visitacion Valley / Portola / Exelsior community, please contact: (415) 330-1789.

## Mayor Launches Task Force to Deal With Open Space In the 21st Century

Joined by some of the brightest minds in urban planning and development, Mayor Gavin Newsom on Nov. 15 launched his Open Space Task Force.

Conceived and coordinated by the Neighborhood Parks Council (NPC), the task force is charged with creating a vision for the planning of San Francisco's open spaces in the 21st century.

"Preserving San Francisco's open spaces is vital to maintaining a healthy environment and promoting healthy neighborhoods for our residents," said Mayor Newsom. "Drawing upon the creativity and experience of experts in our community, we hope to develop far-reaching recommendations to address the needs of our changing urban landscape."

San Francisco has over 200 neighborhood parks that are enjoyed by thousands of local residents and visitors.

In creating the Open Space Task Force, the Mayor aims to develop a comprehensive plan for acquiring and maintaining the city's open spaces.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to seize the advantages that open spaces provide San Francisco, and really create a world class city for the next 30 years and beyond," said Isabel Wade, Executive Director of the Neighborhood Parks Council.

The task force will seek to improve park maintenance, support environmental sustainability, and secure capital funding.

Working with community input, the task force will also forge partnerships with local non-profits and volunteers to best meet the needs of the community.

## California New Home Market Shows No Improvement

SACRAMENTO — The pace of home sales at California new-home communities remained sluggish in September, the California Building Industry Association reported today.

The monthly CBIA/Hanley Wood Market Intelligence (HWMi) New Home Sales and Pricing Report showed that new home sales in September were 45 percent below September 2006, similar to the year-over-year decline seen last month. During September, 3,394 homes and condominiums were sold in the subdivisions tracked by Costa Mesa-based HWMi, compared to 6,220 in September 2006. Sales of single family homes dropped by 39 percent, sales of townhomes and "plexes" — duplexes, triplexes, etc. — were down 36 percent and sales of condominiums were down 65 percent.

Compared with the same period last year, the median base price of homes sold dropped by 9.7 percent. Non-seasonally adjusted total

new home sales were 1 percent lower than levels seen in August, although it is not unusual for September to show a slower pace of sales activity than August. Median prices statewide were about 5 percent lower than in August.

Jonathan Dienhart, Director of Published Research for HWMi, said the slow pace of sales largely reflects the ongoing credit problems in the mortgage market and lagging consumer confidence.

"The problems relating to credit availability don't seem like they will be resolving themselves in the near future," Dienhart said. "Until we have stabilization in the broader market of real estate-backed securities, access to financing will remain restrictive for many potential homebuyers."

Robert Rivinius, CBIA's President and CEO, agreed, and said the continued decline in sales should put added pressure on Congress to enact overdue reforms this year to help California homebuyers ob-

tain mortgages.

"In both 2006 and 2007, the House of Representatives has passed by strong bipartisan margins bills to increase Federal Housing Administration (FHA) mortgage limits to make these valuable mortgages more available in California. Unfortunately, the Senate failed to act last year and so far has failed to bring a reform measure to the floor this year as well," Rivinius said.

"There is still a chance that the Senate will take action in December after the Thanksgiving recess, and we urge senators to pass this and other reforms this year."

Dienhart notes that beyond credit struggles, consumers are also very wary about home purchasing in general. "Many would-be home buyers have taken themselves out of the market because they see it as too risky, and until this perception improves, we will continue to experience a degree of paralysis in the new and existing home markets."

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Care Coordinators  
Treatment Groups  
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We can help you find:

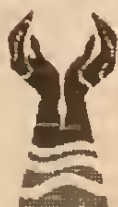
Medical Care  
Financial Assistance  
Pharmacy Consultation  
Nutrition Consultation  
Housing, Food, Clothing

## Hope Creates Health

WORLD AIDS DAY reminds us that HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention have come a long way. Your health begins with you, and so does the health of your family and community.



Southeast Partnership for Health can help you and yours with healthy living and HIV/AIDS care. We offer confidential services at no cost to you. Call us at 1 (800) 311-5051



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Tel: (800) 311-5051 or (415) 695-0704 Fax: (415) 695-2839

Center of Excellence

www.southeastpartnership4health.org



### Grapevine Puzzler S.F. Neighborhoods , Pt. 3

G H D T S A D G H L L I H O R E R T O P  
C S Q E T T Y T J R U S S I A N H I L L  
T R N O I C A T I S I V D O O W T S E W  
H E S T H G I E H H F U D M O M H C I R  
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W E U T P D H C U I C V T E R R A C E O  
S S T Y A T T V O M C U N D E C R E M R  
T T H M R H F N S P E A K S S Z I O N E  
R E O A G W U U H P A R K V R E V L I S  
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A N T K L S I P R P E S E N L S O U T H  
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S C B N O I T I D D A L O T R O P H W P

|              |          |            |             |
|--------------|----------|------------|-------------|
| Park         | Francis  | Sunnyside  | Upper       |
| Merced       | Wood     | Sunnydale  | Market      |
| Parkside     | Sea      | Sunset     | Visitation  |
| Polk         | Cliff    | Telegraph  | Valley      |
| Gulch        | Sherwood | Hill       | Vista       |
| Portola      | Forest   | Tenderloin | del Mar     |
| Potrero Hill | Silver   | Treasure   | West Portal |
| Presidio     | Terrace  | Island     | Western     |
| Presidio     | South    | Twin       | Addition    |
| Heights      | Beach    | Peaks      | Westwood    |
| Richmond     | South of | Union      | Highlands   |
| Rincon Hill  | Market   | Square     | Westwood    |
| Russian Hill | South    | University | Park        |
| Saint        | Park     | Mound      | Zion        |

### Historic Proportions

1876

Match clues to answers.

He made the first successful telephone call on Mar. 10 by saying "Mr. Watson, come here, I want you."

2. He led a unit of 300 cavalry soldiers in battle on June 25 and lost against the allied forces of Lakota, Cheyenne and Arapaho numbering 5000 warriors.

3. Presidential election held on Nov. 7 had him eventually declared the winner.

4. After the War of the Triple Alliance, this country made peace with Argentina on Feb. 3.

5. Corrupt New York politician captured in Spain and later turned over to authorities on Nov. 23.

6. Cyclone struck here on Oct. 31 leaving 200,000 dead.

7. Baseball organization formed on Feb. 2.

8. He became President of Mexico on Nov. 29..

9. Admitted as the 38th U.S. state on Aug. 1..

10. Railroad bridge disaster on Dec. 29 left 92 dead.

11. This country declared war on Turkey on July 1.

12. He received a patent on Aug. 8 for his mimeograph.

- A. India  
B. Paraguay  
C. Col. George Armstrong Custer.  
D. National League

### As a Matter of Fact

\*The average garden snail travels at 0.03 miles per hour.

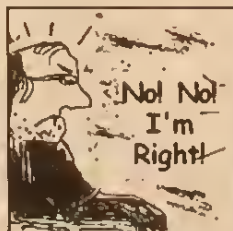
\*The mackintosh raincoat was named after its inventor, Charles Mackintosh, the first man to make truly waterproof fabrics.

\*The hottest place on earth is Dallol, Ethiopia, with an annual mean temperature of 94 degrees.

\*As early as 4000 B.C., ancient people used crude pens consisting of hollow straws or reeds that supported a short column of liquid.

\*The Great Pyramids of Egypt are the only surviving Wonder of the Ancient World.

### Sump, the Gump



### Baby Boomers

by Rix Quinn  
and Rosanne Ruggiero Robertson  
Secret Society

Over the years, I have talked to a number of fellow Baby Boomers about what they did to entertain themselves when they were kids, and it turns out that we were one industrious bunch. There were no electronic games. And at first, we did not even have television.

What we had was the ingenuity of children with all the time in the world to play the age — old games passed down from kid to kid. It was a time for escape into the world of our imagination. We walked or rode our bikes everywhere we went, and we were all part of a "secret society" in which grown-ups had no part. The world was ours.

#### Box Tops

An important "rite of passage" for kids was collecting cereal box tops to send away for a "prize." How many boxes of breakfast cereal did we consume so that we could get enough box tops to send off for the prize we wanted ... a prize we wanted so badly that we would just about die if we couldn't have it?

This was serious stuff to a little kid, because for a little bit of change and a cereal box top, a kid could get some really amazing things to play with.

More memories of "box top prizes": Once the money was collected and the box top was carefully addressed, stamped and mailed in, then came the frustrating, excruciatingly eternal wait. Every day, we raced to the mailbox to see if our precious package had arrived.

What kind of prize did we receive as our reward? It might have been a Captain Midnight Decoder Ring, or how about a magic decoder for a comic character's secret society?

There were Sea Monkeys, X-Ray glasses, the mysterious Diving Sub or Frogman (that we filled with baking soda and watched in amazement as it rose in the water), airplane gliders, detective badges, rings with hidden compartments, rings with siren whistles, sundial "watches," compass-and-magnifiers, truth detectors, signaling devices, space goggles, and cipher disk decoders.

We might have saved our allowance and our box tops to get a Lone Ranger Mask, a stuffed Tony The Tiger toy, a uniform like Rusty wore on Rin Tin Tin (complete with kerchief), a Rin Tin Tin Televiewer with 24-3-D Adventure Slides, or an official Rin Tin Tin T-shirt. There were even miniature comic books that could not be found in any store — for only 15 cents and a cereal box top.

#### Money's Worth

It's hard to compare the prices today with those in our childhood. Let's take a "middle" year — 1955 — during the Baby Boom, which lasted from 1946-1964.

Gasoline was a little less than 25 cents a gallon. One could buy a brand new car for under \$2,000. And a new house could be purchased for under \$12,000.

Will we ever see those times again? Not likely. But also, consider that the average income was about \$4300, which is only about \$83 a week.

#### More Box Tops

Here's more information on "box top" premiums: from 1948 to 1957, one of the most popular was the Lone Ranger Atomic Bomb ring, an adjustable ring with a two-piece aluminum and plastic "bomb." (Wait a minute! Cowboys and atomic bombs?)

If I had to choose my own favorite mail-in box top premium, it would be the miniature license plates from each state. They were one-sixth normal size, made of steel, and were exact detailed replicas of actual license plates from each state. During the same year the state license plates were released, the company also released 31 foreign license plates.

I remember those little license plates because I had one on the back of MY bike. With a baseball card attached by a clothespin to the wheel's spokes, buzzing like a motorcycle as I peddled like crazy with my buddies, off we went into our world of imagination, armed with our prizes and ready to blaze new trails.

#### Generation Gap

Several experts say generations before us — like our parents' Greatest Generation or Silent Generation — shared a number of commonly held beliefs. But some contend that our generation has been divided.

First, there was a debate by young men to grow hair long, or keep it short. Then the generation split on Vietnam. Then on educational goals. Then on political alliances.

In short...we've stayed apart too long. But as we age, we encounter common problems we must reunite to solve, like Social Security, health care, and educating the generations which follow us.

For whatever time is left to us — perhaps 30 years or more — we could unite to change society for the better.

Rix Quinn welcomes your questions about Baby Boomers (those born from 1946-1964. E-mail him at rxquinn@charter.net.

### Poor Rix Almanac

by Rix Quinn

Dear Poor Rix: I looked in the mirror yesterday, and — although I'm just 23 — I'm losing my hair! What do you recommend? — Curley

Poor Rix suggests you get rid of your mirror.

Seriously, I understand your plight, for Poor Rix sheds mountains of hair daily, much of it from the head.

Curley, is your hair really receding? Maybe you combed it differently, or your forehead just had a growth spurt.

Take this quick test: Get an old high school photo, and compare it with your hairline today. If you notice major mane loss — or if hair falls on the photo while you look at it — you might try remedial action.

Poor Rix personally favors the "comb-over." In this evasive maneuver, one simply rearranges hair to cover any bald spots.

Poor Rix — whose eyebrows have grown as scalp hair has flown —

now combs head hair forward and brows backward, and looks much like an attractive hedgehog.

Balding remedies have existed for years. Hippocrates developed one made of onions, horseradish, and pigeon droppings. Users named this fowl mixture "Why Is My Girlfriend Vomiting?"

Today, however, we've got wonderful options including toupees, chemical remedies, and hair transplants. So don't despair. There's repair out there somewhere for missing hair on a scalp that's bare.

Dear Poor Rix: How can I figure out how long I will live? — Nervous

Poor Rix asked several dead people how long they lived, and most said "not long enough."

The average life expectancy in the U.S. is 77.2 years. So if you're an average person who's 77.1, schedule that annual physical real soon.

Here's something weird: the older you get, the longer you might live. If you're 75 right now, you can expect to live 11.5 more years if you avoid high-risk behavior.

For instance, driving a big car is low risk. Trying to lift one is high risk (and pretty dumb).

Other high-risk activities include driving without a seat belt, sky diving without a parachute, and showing up at a political convention wearing campaign buttons from the opposite party.

Did you know women outlive men by five years? Poor Rix told his wife, and she laughed like crazy.

Why the longevity difference? I interviewed several women, who said, "It's because we're smarter." When I asked guys the same question, they said the dead men "were just looking for a way to get out of the house."

Way back in 1900, the average life expectancy was only 47.3 years. Then folks decided dropping dead before 50 was a stupid career move, so they started taking better care of themselves.

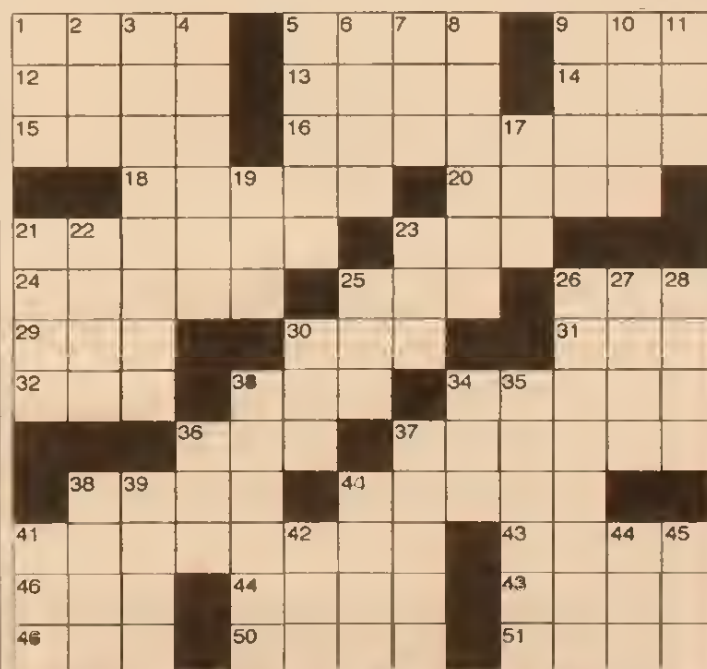
Last week Poor Rix read about a lady over 100 who said a long life comes from "working hard, eating vegetables, and thinking clean thoughts."

Poor Rix has followed 66 percent of that advice.

Rix Quinn — who wrote the book on short writing "Words That Stick" — invites your questions to rxquinn@charter.net.

### Crossword Puzzle

Solution on Page 8



ACROSS  
1 Cocoon insect  
5 Former Korean president  
9 Genetic letters  
12 Dunlin bird  
13 Male noble  
14 Edible root  
15 Sayings (suf.)  
16 Vex  
18 Having (suf.)  
20 Shout  
21 Formula  
23 Fish with bait  
24 Buddhist monk in nirvana  
25 Held a session  
26 Offense  
29 Trouble

30 Mortar mixer  
31 Shoshonean  
32 River into North Sea  
33 Cistern  
34 Oriental  
36 Month (abbr.)  
37 Jot  
38 Fetish  
40 Fundamental  
41 Incense ingredient  
43 Rubbish (Brit.)  
46 Anecdotes  
47 Work (Sp.)  
48 U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (abbr.)  
49 Ten decibels  
50 Corner  
51 Wampum

DOWN  
1 Greek letter  
2 Caribbean lizard  
3 Card game  
4 Abbey (Sp.)  
5 Queen (Fr.)  
6 Stag  
7 Slip  
8 Educate  
9 Old English gold  
10 National (abbr.)  
11 Soul or spirit (Fr.)  
17 Flap  
19 Choose  
21 Electric catfish  
22 Great Lake  
23 flat fish  
25 Pouch

26 Bag  
27 Italic (abbr.)  
28 Hawaiian goose  
30 Mortar beater  
33 Seamount  
34 S.A. sloths  
35 Rile (2 words)  
36 Coniferous tree  
37 Muslim divorce  
38 Without (Ger.)  
40 Pressure (pref.)  
41 Public vehicle  
42 Or best offer (abbr.)  
44 Food and Drug Admin. (abbr.)  
45 Cigarette (Brit. slang)



## Children's Programs Family News

by Molly Hassler

**\*You're Invited to Our 9th Annual Family Feast:** For nine years now, we have been gathering together for a Family Feast at the Community Center. This event has become a tradition and something that we all look forward to sharing with each other. Many of the children in our childcare centers have been practicing holiday songs to perform for their families, friends and neighbors. You do not want to miss their performances, not to mention the turkey and stuffing that the cooks always prepare. Please bring your family and a dish to share to our Ninth Annual Family Feast at the Visitation Valley Community Center Gym, 66 Raymond Ave. on Friday, Dec. 14 at 6 p.m.

**\*Free Movie Night: VVBOOM** (the people who brought you the wonderful Leland Avenue Street Fair) is hosting a Free Movie Night on Tuesday, Dec. 18 at Nayarit Taqueria on the corner of Leland Avenue and Rutland Street. Parents, take a break from the Holiday Rush and bring your kids to see Polar Express, brought to you by VVBOOM and the Leland Avenue merchants. Space is limited but admission is free with a receipt from a Leland Avenue business. Many of our local merchants will be offering Movie Night Specials. Nayarit Taqueria will be making their Nachos de San Blas to celebrate the grand opening of their new Taqueria. Bring a low-backed chair or a pillow to sit on.

**\*Kindergarten Enrollment:** The deadline to apply for Kindergarten is Jan. 11. You can apply to any public school in San Francisco. To learn more about the Kindergarten enrollment process, attend an Enrollment Workshop at Guadalupe Elementary School, 859 Prague St. (at Cordova) on Thursday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m.

## Kwanzaa Word Search

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |              |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--------------|
| S | L | A | C | Q | A | Z | J | T | F | I | V | H | F | B | Candleholder |
| X | E | K | S | N | B | F | L | E | T | H | T | J | L | H | Celebration  |
| W | B | V | I | T | K | T | S | Y | S | A | G | D | W | S | Crops        |
| P | R | K | E | G | H | T | M | K | V | W | Y | L | V | W | Feast        |
| I | A | P | H | N | I | P | Q | T | U | S | B | P | H | C | Festival     |
| B | T | K | U | V | C | T | A | M | E | C | A | L | P | N | Gifts        |
| T | I | M | A | C | M | A | O | L | N | S | M | X | H | G | Kinara       |
| N | O | L | W | M | Y | J | N | X | F | B | A | X | P | E | Placemat     |
| M | N | Q | H | R | A | T | L | D | L | D | R | D | Q | Y | Sevencandles |
| H | J | X | L | V | P | W | I | S | L | W | K | X | K | S | Swahili      |
| C | R | O | P | S | D | D | V | N | F | E | P | Z | T | O | Umoja        |
| O | L | S | Q | S | F | R | G | T | U | P | S | N | E | X | Unitycup     |
| C | A | N | D | L | E | H | O | L | D | E | R | U | I | T |              |

## Concerns for Home Buyers and Sellers

When buying or selling a home, people are often surprised to find how appropriate an old maxim—"The more things change, the more they remain the same"—can be.

That's because, no matter the age, style, size or location of a house, there are common problems that are likely to turn up during a home inspection.

Knowing what these potential defects are, and preparing to deal with them, is key to making the most of the buying experience. Dan Steward, president of Pillar To Post, North America's leading provider of home inspection services, identifies these problems as the 10 most common:

1. **Structural damage:** As the foundation settles, it can knock doorways, walls and support beams out of alignment. The end result could make the entire house a safety hazard.

2. **Leaky roof:** Roofs may leak due to poor construction or aging materials. The question is, will the subsequent repairs be minor (replacing shingles) or major (replacing the entire roof)?

3. **Faulty wiring:** Older homes often need electrical upgrades, especially if you plan on installing a lot of electronic equipment (computers, exercise machines) or a pool or hot tub. When electrical circuits are not overloaded, the risk of fire is reduced.

4. **Defective heating system:** If it's an

older system, it can pay to upgrade to one that uses less energy and is more efficient. If you've got gas or oil heat, a carbon monoxide detector is advisable.

5. **Poor drainage:** If the property is not properly graded, water may not run away from the house. In addition, gutters and downspouts should be checked and replaced if necessary.

6. **Plumbing problems:** Older homes may have faulty pipes made of polybutylene-popular in the 1970s till the mid-1990s—which are prone to leakage and should probably be replaced with newer, more reliable materials.

7. **Poor ventilation:** Check the bathrooms. Without sufficient ventilation, moisture may have built up, potentially causing structural damage inside the walls.

8. **Water seepage:** If water's coming in, be sure to add caulk and/or weather stripping to your shopping list. Water leaks can lead to mold, mildew and dry rot.

9. **Improper maintenance:** Any did-it-themselves, nonprofessional repairs could be a source of aggravation down the line.

10. **Hazardous materials:** Older homes may contain lead-based paint, asbestos, carbon monoxide, radon gas or toxic molds. Any of these could eventually cause serious health problems.

To learn more or to find a home inspector in your area, visit [www.pillartopost.com](http://www.pillartopost.com).

NAPS

## California Still Home to Nation's Least Affordable Housing

SACRAMENTO - Despite falling home prices throughout most of the state, California remains the nation's least affordable market for housing in the third quarter, the California Building Industry Association reported today.

The quarterly NAHB/Wells Fargo Housing Opportunity Index, compiled by CBIA's sister organization, the National Association of Home Builders, found that homes were less affordable in 13 of the state's metropolitan areas when compared to the second quarter, while affordability inched upwards in 15.

On a statewide basis, just 12.6 percent of all the homes sold could be afforded by a median-income family, up slightly from 11.7 percent in the second quarter.

Robert Rivinius, CBIA's President and CEO, said the fact that affordability has not increased dramatically despite a housing downturn that has lasted over a year is ample proof that market corrections alone are not likely to allow the hundreds of thousands of Californians priced out of homeownership to be able to buy their first homes.

"Despite market corrections that have made some areas more affordable, the fact remains that the cost of housing in California is out of reach for many hard-working families who want to be able to buy their first home," Rivinius said.

He noted that policy-makers need to recognize that the high costs of land, fees, and over-regulation are pushing homeownership out of reach for first-time buyers and that

our state and local representatives need to come up with solutions to ease restrictions to allow more homes to be built to meet the demand of our ever-growing population.

"California's housing costs are driven by supply and demand. Because of increased restrictions and regulations, the supply of new homes hasn't been able to keep pace with the demand of our rapidly growing population, which has made prices climb dramatically over the years," Rivinius said. "As a result, California now has 25 of the 30 least-affordable markets in the nation."

Rivinius cited countless lawsuits against housing proposals over environmental issues, a scarcity of entitled land on which to build, and ever-increasing government fees that can add \$50,000 to \$100,000 to the price of each home or condominium, as three barriers that must be addressed.

During the third quarter, nine of the 10 least-affordable communities in the nation were located in California, as were 26 of the bottom 33. Napa County saw a significant decrease in affordability, overtaking Los Angeles County as the nation's least affordable market—only 3.3 percent of homes sold were affordable to a median-income family. Los Angeles County had been the least-affordable market in the nation for 11 consecutive quarters, but is now second with affordability inching upwards to 3.7 percent. Monterey County was the third least-affordable market (4.2 percent), followed by Orange

## New Classes at Garden for the Environment

Garden for the Environment will offer the following classes in December on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the half-acre organic demonstration garden in San Francisco on 7th Avenue at Lawton Street. Since its founding in 1990, the garden has operated as a demonstration site for small-scale urban ecological food production, organic gardening, compost education and low water-use landscaping.

Pre-register at (415) 731-5627 or [info@gardenfortheenvironment.org](mailto:info@gardenfortheenvironment.org).

**\*Dec. 1: Urban Composting:** Join Garden for the Environment for a fun, hands-on workshop teaching basic methods for backyard and worm composting. Learn easy methods to turn food scraps and fallen leaves into compost, a "gardeners black gold!" Compost is a rich soil amendment which will greatly benefit your garden plants, house plants, and the environment, by diverting compostable material from the landfill.

**\*Dec. 8: Managing Garden Soil Fertility Organically:** Learn to grow healthy, vigorous plants by growing healthy soil. Healthy soil is the foundation of a sustainable garden and in this workshop we will learn organic techniques to "Feed the Soil." There will be a discussion on the basics of soil and soil fertility, the benefits of compost and mulch, non-toxic soil amendments and cover cropping for small gardens. This Resource Efficient Landscape Education workshop is \$5. Please pre-register.

**\*Dec. 15: Grey Water Design and Rainwater Catchment for Home and Garden:** Greywater is water which flows down sink, shower, and washing machine drains (but not the toilet)

and can be great for irrigating your garden. Join Laura Allen of Greywater Girls and Garden for the Environment for a water conservation workshop covering the basics of greywater, rainwater catchment, and composting toilets. You will learn how to reuse your household greywater to grow a bountiful garden year round while reducing your water bill! Investigate concepts of rainwater harvesting and analyze your roof's potential output. Get some hands-on design practice for your future greywater projects. Bring ideas for your home (and photo's if you can!) and spend the last hour, which is optional, designing your very own greywater system with the support of the instructors. This Resource Efficient Landscape Education workshop is \$5. Please pre-register.

## Smart Ways in Cutting New-Car Costs

One way to avoid sticker shock or buyer's remorse when purchasing a new car is to consider expenses you may encounter down the road.

For instance, experts say that while most people anticipate the purchase price, taxes and registration fees associated with a vehicle, many forget that the insurance they need to protect their vehicle could come with a hefty price tag. Fortunately, there are ways to keep insurance costs down while maintaining the type and amount of coverage a new car typically requires.

To help consumers control car costs—from sticker price to insurance premiums—The Progressive Group of Insurance Companies offers these tips:

**\*Decide ahead of time how much money you can spend and what type of vehicle best suits your needs.**

**\*Research crash test and accident data.** You can see crash test video and analysis from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety online at [progressive.com](http://progressive.com).

**\*Check with several dealerships and get firm quotes in writing.** Having quotes from several places can help you negotiate your best deal.

**\*Shop around for financing.** Rates vary between institutions.

### Insurance Costs

Before you buy a car, you should check into how much it would cost

County (4.8 percent), and San Luis Obispo County (5.7 percent).

Only one metro area scored affordability levels higher than 25 percent—Butte County, which decreased from 30.0 percent to 27.2 percent. Affordability climbed by more than 2 percentage points in four California markets, including Merced County, where the affordability rate climbed from 3.8 percent to 7.4 percent. Santa Barbara County saw affordability climb from 6.2 percent to 8.6 percent, while Stanislaus County saw an increase from 7.0 percent to 9.7 percent, and Sacramento County had an increase from 15.0 percent to 17.2 percent.

Nationwide, 42 percent of new and existing homes sold in the third quarter were affordable to families earning the national median income. Kokomo, Ind., became the nation's most affordable major housing market with an affordability ranking of 90.5 percent, overtaking Indianapolis, Ind., which came in second with a ranking of 87.5 percent.

## Saturdays are Special At Randall Museum

The Randall Museum offers drop-in, hands-on art and science workshops every Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m. at 199 Museum Way (off Roosevelt, above the Castro). Workshops are \$3 per child; \$5 for a parent and child combo. All kids under 8 must be with a paying adult. Call 554-9600 for further information.

Saturday, Dec. 1 is Holiday Crafts Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**\*Dec. 8:** Create a colorful, decorative papier mache bowl or candle holder.

**\*Dec. 15:** Bring a small photo or other 2-D memento or choose from our collection of glitter, sequins, and more to embellish your own refrigerator magnets.

**\*Dec. 22:** Observe a snake, snake skin, and snake skeleton, learn some amazing snake facts, and sculpt a scaled snake sculpture.

**\*Dec. 29:** Come build and paint the miniature castle of your imagination.

Other regular Saturday activities include:

**\*Morning Family Ceramics** from 10 to 11:30 a.m. (\$5 per person workshop fee)

**\*Meet the Animals** from 11:15 a.m. to 12 noon.

**\*Animal Feeding** at 12 noon.

**\*Golden Gate Model Railroad Club Exhibit** from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## San Francisco Minimum Wage Set to Increase in the New Year

Starting Jan. 1, San Francisco's lowest paid workers will receive a 2.4 percent raise. The San Francisco Office of Labor Standards Enforcement announced today that the city's minimum wage of \$9.14 per hour will be adjusted to \$9.36.

The Minimum Wage Ordinance, passed by the voters in November 2003, calls for annual rate adjustments based on the previous year's Consumer Price Index for urban wage earners in the San Francisco-Oakland-San

Jose metropolitan area.

"This wage increase ensures that the purchasing power of San Francisco's workers will keep pace with inflation," said Mayor Gavin Newsom. "By linking the city's minimum wage to the Consumer Price Index, San Francisco is responding to the needs of its workers, while also establishing a national model for minimum wage laws."

The City is preparing updated multilingual posters announcing the new rates, and will mail the posters

to 90,000 registered businesses. Employers are required to post the notice in their workplace. Additional information regarding San Francisco's Minimum Wage Ordinance can be found at [www.sfgov.org/olse/mwo](http://www.sfgov.org/olse/mwo) or by calling (415) 554-6292.

The national minimum wage, raised this past July, now stands at \$5.85 per hour. The State of California's minimum wage, which is currently \$7.50 per hour, will be raised to \$8 per hour on Jan. 1.

To find an independent agent, visit [progressiveagent.com](http://progressiveagent.com). NAPS



## Alliance Aims to Push the Debate

by Todd Stottlemeyer

Many people get frustrated by gridlock, whether it's traffic or political. Of the two, the political kind has far worse effects on our economy. So four leading organizations have decided to do something about it.

The National Federation of Independent Business, AARP, the Service Employees International Union and the Business Roundtable, a group of CEOs of leading American companies, have come together in a coalition called Divided We Fail.

Collectively, we represent the 25 million small businesses in this country, along with big business, consumers and labor groups—more than 53 million people, including employees and dependents. We seek to engage the American public, elected officials and the business community to find broad-based, bipartisan solutions to address what has become a national crisis, especially for America's job creators—health care and its impact on our nation's long-term economic competitiveness.

Healthy, growing small businesses are vital to our economy. They generate half of America's GDP, and create two-thirds of the net new jobs. So the business of small business is good. Yet, of the estimated 46 million Americans without health care, more than 27 million are small-business owners, employees or dependents of small businesses.

Less than half of small businesses can afford to offer a health-insurance plan as a benefit. Fewer, about 30 percent, can afford to offer retirement plans. This is simply not acceptable.

For 20 straight years, small businesses have said that health-care costs are their number one issue. But things haven't gotten any better. In fact, they're getting worse. We must find a way to fundamentally alter the forces driving costs, or our efforts will be for naught.

The time has come to address this problem in a real and lasting way. And no discussion of health care should take place without America's job creators at the table. We believe this coalition will spur our nation's political leaders to start working together to take on the threats to America's health care and our overall economic competitiveness.

It's past time to address the challenges that small businesses face in obtaining affordable health care for themselves and their employees. We will do nothing less than commit every resource to fight for a health-care system that makes affordable, quality health care available to ev-

## Holiday Harvest at Willie Brown Academy

Students at Willie Brown, Jr. Academy at 2055 Silver Ave. harvested greens from their school garden on Nov. 20 to take home to family Thanksgiving dinners.

Willie Brown students who have planted and cared for their edible gardens this school year, along with their garden coordinators Miriam Feiner and Velvelon Brown.

The garden, supported by the Shaw Fund and the Department of the Environment, serves as an outdoor classroom by providing hands on education about nutrition, gardening and other life skills.

There are 36 school gardens in SFUSD. That number will grow to more than 70 by the year 2009.

## Native Plant Society Having Annual Potluck

Slides taken by the California Native Plant Society's Yerba Buena Chapter members will be presented at an annual year-end slide show on Thursday, Dec. 6 at the County Fair Building, (corner of Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way) in Golden Gate Park. Slides will be shown at 7:30 p.m. following an informal potluck dinner, which will begin at 6:30 p.m.. More info is at: <http://www.cnps-yerbahuena.org>

eryone.

If we truly want to provide coverage for all while protecting our economy, the real focus should be on small business' biggest concern—the cost of health insurance. Reduce costs, and we can increase coverage. We also need a national solution, not piecemeal, state-by-state attempts.

Our research shows that for small-business owners, the broad principles of the solution include:

\*Increasing competition by breaking down the barriers that exist to selling insurance to small businesses, such as market pooling

\*Opening markets to provide a wide variety of choices of insurers and coverage plans

\*Providing complete transparency in the costs of treatments and the outcomes of those treatments so that we become better-educated consumers of health care and can make informed decisions

\*Making health insurance portable from job to job (which also would encourage more would-be entrepreneurs to follow their dreams and start a business without worrying about losing coverage).

Our goal is to widely share this information and bring the health-care debate to the ears of Congress and the President. Through Divided We Fail, as well as through our own grassroots mobilization and communication efforts, we will do everything in our power to guarantee that small-business owners—America's job creators, risk takers, community leaders—are heard loudly and clearly.

Todd Stottlemeyer is president and CEO of the National Federation of Independent Business in Washington, D.C.

## How to Move From Renting to Owning

The current state of the housing market can be good news for first-time home buyers. Prices seem to have come down from their recent peaks and there are a number of plans and loan types that can open the door to your American Dream.

You can even take advantage of free services that examine your financial situation, available credit and housing needs and then match you with an appropriate loan type. Just check first whether the "financial experts" you speak with are trying to sell you a loan.

Instead, you may prefer to find unbiased sources of information who are neither lenders nor Realtors. One such group works with homebuyers from prequalification to close of escrow by assessing the buyers' personal objectives and providing predictable, safe and affordable plans to make home ownership a reality. There is no cost to the buyer. Sellers pay for the group's services, which are completely confidential.

It'll help you get loans that are government insured and guaranteed safe. Because these first-time homeownership programs often eliminate the need for a large down payment, they tend to be particularly helpful for members of the military, peace officers, postal workers, teachers and others who want to avoid spending their entire savings when purchasing a home.

### First Steps

To qualify for these mortgages, available up to \$571,000 depending on your geographic area, you need a credit score of 620 or higher. You can even earn up to \$120,000. Here are hints that may help:

\*Get your annual free credit report by visiting the government-approved Web site at [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com) or calling (877) 322-8228. Make sure to get a report from all three agencies. Correct any errors.

\*Pay down your debt. Outstanding auto and credit card loans can affect your creditworthiness. Lenders use a formula called debt to income ratios to establish a borrower's liabilities, including a new mortgage payment, property taxes and insurance. An acceptable ratio is 45 percent.

\*Get free assistance. You can begin the prequalification process by call-

## Strategy in Navigating the Foreclosure Superhighway

If the news about home foreclosures has you worried about losing your home, here are some simple ways to find out if you're at risk and develop a plan to deal with whatever situation you're facing.

### Checking Under the Hood

A mortgage is not unlike a car: Regular maintenance is the best way to avoid unexpected problems. All homeowners should know whether they are scheduled for a rate reset that will increase their monthly payments, when it will occur and how much it will be.

If you're unclear about the terms of your loan, you can contact your lender and review the summary or "note" on your mortgage. The note provides details about your payment schedule, penalties and rate resets.

Once you know the reset amount, you'll know whether you can afford your mortgage payments over the life of your loan.

If you have an adjustable-rate mortgage, talk to your lender or mortgage broker about how much money an interest rate increase of one-quarter percent means in terms of real dollars you'll have to pay each month. That will help you determine the point at which an interest rate increase could cause financial problems for you.

### Green Light

If you're not scheduled for a rate reset at least for a few years—or you don't have an adjustable-rate mortgage, you can focus on the long-term value of your home.

While home prices are beginning

to decline in some places, and many commentators believe the market is likely to be flat in the short term, over the long term, homeownership has been a good investment.

"We studied the Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight's [OFHEO] house price index over a 20-year period, from 1986 to 2005, and found that owning a home for 10 years or longer during that period produced a positive return on investment 99.6 percent of the time, and owning for five years produced a positive return 95 percent of the time," said David Katkov, president of PMI Mortgage Insurance Co. "Our calculations were based on index results, so actual results may vary for individual homeowners, but what this shows is that homes can be an excellent way to build wealth if you treat them as a long-term investment."

### Yellow Light

If a rate reset is in your future and you need to refinance your home mortgage, it's important to remember that it may be harder to get a mortgage today than it has been over the last few years. Refinancing could be more difficult for you if the value of your home, your credit score or your income has decreased since you purchased your home. Your bank or mortgage broker can help you assess your particular situation.

If this is your situation, you may want to get ready by making sure there are no errors on your credit report that could diminish your ability to get a new loan.

If you qualify for a refinance but don't have 20 percent equity in your home, you may want to opt for a single home loan with mortgage insurance.

"You shouldn't have to compromise your financial security or future to own a home," said Katkov. "Having the strength and stability of a mortgage insurer behind you can help you get the loan for the house you want, despite a low down payment. It's a great tool to help you get into a home and enjoy the benefits of homeownership. And premiums

can be tax deductible, making it an even smarter choice."

The best news for borrowers is that, unlike nontraditional mortgages, payments on a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage with mortgage insurance will be the same each month. This means you can develop a budget and stick to it without worrying about unexpected increases in your monthly payments.

### Red Light

"If you've taken a look at your financial situation and you know your mortgage is going to cost you more than you can afford, it's important to contact your lender right away," said Marcos Kincon, executive director of LULAC National Housing Commission. "Contacting your lender before you have a financial problem gives you access to more home-retention programs. Your options will decrease the longer you wait."

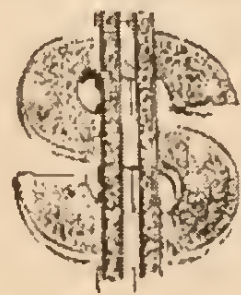
You can also contact a national nonprofit service such as NeighborWorks at (888) 955-HOPE (4673), which can connect you with foreclosure-prevention programs.

In some instances, saving a home is simply not possible. By contacting your lender early, you give yourself the most options. One of these is a "short sale," where you agree to sell the house, and the lender agrees to accept the amount you can sell it for (which is "short" of the amount owed) and forgive the rest. The advantage is that you avoid damage to your credit rating, increasing the chance that you will be able to become a homeowner down the road. If you do consider the short sale option, be sure to consult with your tax adviser, because there may be tax implications for you resulting from this choice.

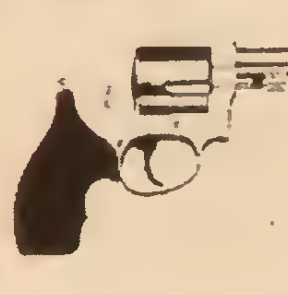
### Getting Back on the Road

If you're in trouble, you're not alone. Nonprofit and government programs are mobilized and ready to work with you. Moving quickly to take advantage of all of the available assistance options can improve your chances of staying on the road and moving in the right direction.

# GIFTS FOR GUNS



# 4



No  
Questions  
Asked

No  
I.D.  
Required

Bring in an operable firearm and receive the following:

\$100 Gift Card= Rifle or Shotgun (i.e. 22 caliber rifle, 12 gauge shotgun)

\$150 Gift Card= Revolver or Semi Automatic pistol (i.e. 9mm pistol, .38 Special)

\$200 Gift Card= Assault Type Firearm (i.e. AK-47, Mac 10, Tech 9)

Here's how you do it:

Firearm must be unloaded

Firearm must be operable

Firearm must be in a clear plastic bag and put into another container (like a gym bag)

If you are turning in ammunition, it must be in a separate plastic bag from the firearm.

If you are transporting by car, transport the firearm in the trunk of the car.

AT THE EVENT: FOOD AND POSTIVE COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Brought to you by:

The Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice Mayor's Neighborhood Service

Juvenile Probation Department Hunter's Point Family Peacekeepers

Brothers Against Guns Girls 2000



## Visitacion Valley Business Directory

Valley free listings in the 415 area code  
Call the Grapevine at (415) 467-9300

**AQUARIUM**  
DRAGON CITY AQUARIUM, 144 Leland Ave., 333-4588

**AUTOMOTIVE**  
BAYSHORE AUTO, 2260 Bayshore Blvd., 467-6130  
BAYSHORE SERVICE, 2596 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5239  
BROTHERS AUTO BODY, 2520 Bayshore Blvd.  
CHARLIE'S GARAGE, 2550 Bayshore Blvd., 239-7450  
T.W. AUTOMOTIVE, 2500 Bayshore Blvd., 585-8281

**BANK**  
BANK OF AMERICA, 6 Leland Ave., 622-4501

**BAKERS**  
LITTLE QUIAPO BAKE SHOP, 169 Leland Ave., 239-2253

**BARBERS**  
BARBERSHOP, 3570 San Bruno Ave., 724-4398  
DeMASI'S BARBER SHOP, 35 Leland Ave.  
THE SHOP (JBI), 160A Leland Ave., 239-6709

**BEAUTICIANS**  
BODY, SOUL & SPIRIT, 222 Leland Ave., 333-7261  
FACE, BODY & SOUL, 3582 San Bruno Ave., 467-3223  
HONG KONG HAIR & NAIL BEAUTY SALON, 199 Leland Ave., 333-1005  
LUCKY HAIR, 2436 Bayshore Blvd., 586-8288  
MAY MAY BEAUTY SALON, 60 Leland Ave., 337-9381  
MIZ RENA'S SALON, 19 Blanken Ave., 467-3399  
NAILS BY JENNY, 50 Leland Ave., 333-6800  
WHO'S BADD, 224 Leland Ave., 657-3156

**BLIND CLEANING**  
SPEEDY ULTRASONIC BLIND CLEANING (commercial and residential), 1116 Girard St., 467-7506

**BOARDING HOUSE**  
ABLE'S CASA, 850 Rutland St., 333-4664, fax 333-4693

**BOOKKEEPERS**  
AMY ARAGON, PROFESSIONAL BOOKKEEPER, 467-8927  
VERNA WALLACE E.A., 2320 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5333

**CARPETS**  
HANSAN INTERIORS, 41 Leland Ave., 333-6382

**CHURCHES**  
CHURCH OF THE VISITACION, 655 Sunnydale Ave., 239-5950  
IGLESIA EL ESPIRITU SANTO, 38 Leland Ave.  
KOREAN FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 333 Tunnel Ave., 468-1213  
RIDGEVIEW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, 590 Leland Ave., 239-5457  
ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 240 Leland Ave., 586-6381  
VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, 305 Raymond Ave., 467-6055  
VISITACION CHINESE BAPTIST CHURCH, 8 Desmond St., 333-4503

**COFFEE**  
CANDLESTICK COFFEE, 2156 Bayshore Blvd., 467-2442  
HAPPY DONUT, 2600 Bayshore Blvd., 469-5309  
JOE LELAND CAFE, 28 Leland Ave.

**CREDIT UNION**  
NORTHEAST COMMUNITY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION, 29 Leland Ave., 434-0738

**DAY CARE**  
CAROUSEL DAY CARE, 261 Hahn St., 469-5353

**DENTIST**  
VISITACION VALLEY DENTAL OFFICE (Albert Kuan, DDS), 37 Leland Ave., 239-5500

**DEVELOPERS**  
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**CORPORATION**, 1099 Sunnydale Ave., 587-7895

**ELECTRICAL**  
TATE ELECTRIC (Joel Tate), 467-4657

**FLOORS**  
TEDDY B'S HARDWOOD FLOORS, 309-6342

**FLORISTS**  
IL FIORE FLOWERS, 2466 San Bruno Ave., 468-0145  
GARDEN ORNAMENTS  
SILVESTRI GARDEN ORNAMENTS, 2635 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5990  
GROCERS  
CASA LOPEZ PRODUCE, 58 Leland Ave., 586-4745  
E-Z STOP MARKET, 2203 Geneva Ave., 585-9240  
FIVE MILE MARKET, 3574 San Bruno Ave., 467-7300  
K.C. MARKET, 400 Wide St., 467-3024  
LA LOMA PRODUCE #2, 65 Leland Ave., 239-7520  
LITTLE VILLAGE MARKET, 1450 Sunnydale Ave., 586-1815  
M & M SHORTSTOP, 2145 Geneva Ave., 585-0878  
PICCOLO PETE, 2155 Bayshore Blvd., 468-6800  
7-11, 2200 Bayshore Blvd., 468-8646  
SHUN LEE MARKET, 2400 Bayshore Blvd., 586-4851  
SMITTY'S MARKET, 2610 Bayshore Blvd., 239-5606  
SUPER FAIR MARKET, 201 Leland Ave., 239-6856  
TEDDY'S MARKET, 298 Teddy Ave.

**HERBS**  
SAN ON HERBS, 33-A Leland Ave., 333-7469

**HYPNOTHERAPY**  
VALERIE HABEGGER-HYPNOTHERAPY, 371 Teddy Ave., 468-5631

**INSURANCE**  
EDIE EPPS (A.H.E. INSURANCE), 467-0236, Fax 467-0276  
ROBERT LEHMAN, CLTC (Blue Cross), 333-0850

**KITCHEN CABINETS**  
LEE CHANG INTERNATIONAL, 25 Leland Ave., 333-2730

**LAUNDRY/CLEANERS**  
BAY WASH, 44 Leland Ave.  
CITY WASH, 83 Leland Ave., 333-9467  
COIN WASH & DRY LAUNDRY, 186 Leland Ave.  
FORTY-NINER CLEANERS, 51 Leland Ave., 239-6418  
LELAND AVENUE CLEANERS, 151 Leland Ave., 586-1412  
VALLEY LAUNDRY, 90 Leland Ave.  
VISITACION VALLEY LAUNDRY, 108 Leland Ave., 239-9030

**LEARNING**  
FIRST PLACE 2 START, 1252 Sunnydale Ave., 333-2659  
HERITAGE HOMES CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTER, 245 Ray St., 586-8700  
JOHN KING CHILD AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT CENTER, 500 Raymond Ave., 333-1375  
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY BEACON CENTER, 450 Raymond Ave., 452-4907  
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS, 103 Tucker Ave., 467-5565  
VISITACION VALLEY FAMILY SCHOOL, 325 Leland Ave., 585-9320

**LIBRARY**  
VISITACION VALLEY BRANCH LIBRARY, 45 Leland Ave., 239-5270

**MANUFACTURER**  
SEE'S CANDIES, INC., 345 Schwenn St.

**MEDICAL**  
AMERICAN RED CROSS, BAY AREA CHAPTER, 1704 Sunnydale Ave., 584-3620  
HAWKINS VILLAGE MEDICAL CLINIC (Dept. of Public Health), 1099 Sunnydale Ave., Appointments: 715-0310  
OR SAM HO, MD, 2858 San Bruno Ave., 337-6136  
NEW CARINALACUPRESSURE HEALTH CENTER, 2458 Bayshore Blvd., 337-8100

**NORTHEAST MEDICAL SERVICES** LELAND AVENUE 82 Leland Ave., 391-9686 (ask for Leland Avenue clinic)

**PORTOLAO FOOT & ANKLE CLINIC** (Dr. Dwyang Patel) 2858 San Bruno Ave., 467-7500

**NOTARY**  
ROYAL PACIFIC MORTGAGE, 46 Leland Ave., 333-4900

**ORGANIZATIONS**  
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER, 2442 Bayshore Blvd., 587-2689  
GENEVA TERRACE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, 60 Burr Ave., 584-2700  
GIRLS AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMY, 2050 Sunnydale Ave., 333 Schwenn St., 584-4044  
JOHN KING SENIOR COMMUNITY, 500 Raymond Ave., 239-6233  
LELAND HOUSE, 141 Leland Ave., 406-2000  
ROCK (Real Options for City Kids), 590 Leland Ave., 333-4001  
VISITACION VALLEY SENIOR CENTER, 66 Raymond Ave., 467-4499

**PHARMACY**  
VISITACION VALLEY PHARMACY, 100 Leland Ave., 239-5811

**PHOTOGRAPHER**  
WALTER CORBIN PHOTOGRAPHY (freelance), 436 Sawyer St., 587-9471, fax 337-8620

**PLUMBING**  
MARK VOELKER PLUMBING, 99 Arista Ave., 467-7401

**POST OFFICE**  
VISITACION USPO, 68 Leland Ave., (800) 275-8777

**REAL ESTATE**  
JUSTYNAP TO, (Realtor, Coldwell Banker), (650) 757-8868, Mobile (415) 830-1235, Fax (650) 246-1910  
LAFLUE-WALTON & ASSOCIATES, 2428 Bayshore Blvd., 587-8683  
CATHY KLINE SAUNDERS (Zephyr Real Estate), 215 West Portal Ave., 731-5011 ex. 163

**RESTAURANTS**  
BAYSIDE CAFE, 2011 Bayshore Blvd., 467-2023  
BLUE HAWAIIAN RESTAURANT, 107 Leland Ave., 469-9728  
G & L BAKERY & RESTAURANT, 198 Leland Ave., 239-6283  
HERRANDEZ TAQUERIA & BAKERY, 98 Leland Ave., 587-7721  
LUAN FAT BAKERY, 110 Leland Ave., 585-1167  
TWO JACKS, 167 Leland Ave., 337-0433

**SCULPTOR**  
CARTORIGIALS (Mikal Cantor), 2 Hahn St., 239-4138

**SELF-DEVELOPMENT**  
DYNAMIC DEVELOPMENTS (Marlene Ann Williams, CEO, Career and Self-Enhancements Specialist), 467-7608

**SERVICE PROVIDERS**  
THE VILLAGE, 1099 Sunnydale Ave., 239-5045  
VISITACION VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH OUTREACH CENTER, 57 Leland Ave.  
VISITACION VALLEY BILINGUAL EDUCATION, SUPPORTIVE SERVICES & TRAINING (VVBEST), 120 Leland Ave.  
VISITACION VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTER (VCC), 50 Raymond Ave., 467-6400  
VCC FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER, 161 Leland Ave., 586-6998, Fax 586-8027  
VISITACION VALLEY BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AND OUTREACH TO MERCHANTS (VVBOM), 1099 Sunnydale Ave., 587-7896 ext. 104

**TAVERN**  
THE CLUB HOUSE, 25 Blanken Ave.

**TELEPHONE**  
D & A WIRELESS, 78 Leland Ave., 452-4139

**VARIETY**  
GOLDEN 99 CENTS ZONE, 5-7 Leland Ave., 333-3923

## California Gas Prices Nearing Record Highs

If all prices had increased as much as the cost of gas, many consumers would be in trouble. According to a recent report from AAA of Northern California, which tracks fuel costs as a service to consumers, prices in many communities in California are close to record high levels set in May.

The statewide average cost for a gallon of regular unleaded gas was \$3.39 on Nov. 13, just ten cents below the record high price set earlier this year. This price is an increase of 32 cents per gallon since the last AAA gas price report on October 16 and an increase of more than 50 cents in the last two months.

The main market force driving the latest round of gasoline price increases is an enormous increase in the costs of crude oil, the raw material from which gas is made. Crude oil prices peaked last week at \$98.62, an all time high. That's up from about \$55 per barrel at the beginning of the year. Many analysts have attributed rising oil prices to increased tensions in and around oil producing regions of the world that could threaten the reliable supply of crude.

"The effects of the recent spike in oil prices probably haven't finished trickling down to the gas station where you fill up," said Sean Comey, spokesman for AAA of Northern California. "So as bad as it is now, it's likely to get worse, at least in the short term."

The U.S. Department of Energy predicts gasoline prices will continue to climb, forecasting an additional 20 cent per gallon price increase by December if OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) does not increase production.

The impact of high fuel prices is taking its toll on household budgets. A new study from OPIS, the Oil Price Information Service, finds that the percentage of median income spent on gasoline has doubled in the

last five years.

The most expensive average gas price in the California communities where AAA monitors fuel costs was in Tahoe City, where regular unleaded sold for \$3.60 per gallon. The lowest price among Northern California cities tracked by AAA was in Chico, where gas cost an average of \$3.30 per gallon. Throughout Northern California, the average price was \$3.42, an increase of 33 cents per gallon since the last AAA gas price report.

In the Bay Area, the average price was \$3.53, up 34 cents from last month. The statewide average record high price of \$3.49 was set on May 9.

The national average price for gas was at \$3.11, up 35 cents from last month's survey. The national average price was 28 cents a gallon less than the California statewide average price.

The least expensive gasoline in the country was found in Saint Louis, Missouri, where regular unleaded cost an average of \$2.86. The highest average price in the nation was in Wailuku, Hawaii, on the island of Maui, where a gallon of regular unleaded cost \$3.65.

## El Dorado Elementary Helping Their Families

Continuing the Thanksgiving tradition of sharing food with others, El Dorado Elementary at 70 Delta St. has been serving home bags of free food with 50 of its families one day a week throughout the school year.

El Dorado Parent Liaison Rocio DeMoble coordinates with the San Francisco Food Bank to provide canned goods, bread, plus seasonal fruits and vegetables to families in need.

The program is part of an ongoing commitment from SFUSD to make schools community hubs complete with resources for families and students.

## Visitacion Valley Family and Community Services Center



*For a Better, Healthier, Safer Community for All*

## We Can Help You!

Complete Immigration documents, assist with SF County paperwork (Medi-Cal, Welfare, etc.), education workshops, referrals to other services

Third Series of  
Interacting with Your  
Child Through Games  
and Activities

"Preparation for New Year 2008"  
Thursday, December 27  
5:30 - 7 p.m.

Free dinner, books and educational games.  
Participants with children ages 0-5 encouraged.

Second Series of  
Parents' Support Group  
Thursday, December 13  
5:30 - 7 p.m.

Family Relationship, Part 1

Free dinner and childcare!  
Participants with children ages 0-5 encouraged.  
Facilitated by Julia Carmen, Before The After

## Every Wednesday

December 5, 12, 19 and 26  
6 - 8 p.m.

Men's Classes  
Facilitated by  
Before The After  
FREE Refreshments

## Free Food Distribution

Every Monday,  
3 - 4 p.m.  
December 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31  
Emergency food box  
available anytime.  
Call (415) 586-6998,  
Monday-Friday,  
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

## December 2007 Activities

held at 161 Leland Avenue  
except where noted

### Enhanced Information and Referral

Every Monday Through Friday  
December 3 to 31, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Male Involvement Support Group

Thursday, December 13, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

For more information, please contact  
the Family and Community Services  
Center staff: Meriam T. Abalos,  
Marichelle Punzalan, Joyce Boone,  
Cynthia Pun, Jenny Sosa and  
Marianna Chan at  
161 Leland Ave., San Francisco, 94134



161 Leland Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94134

Tel: (415) 586-6998 Fax: (415) 586-8027 e-mail: meriam\_vcc@sbglobal.net





# I have been studying Visitacion Valley for a long Time.



Cathy Kline Saunders  
CRS, NAR

**For All Your Real Estate Needs, Call**

**Cathy Kline Saunders**

415.731.5011 x 163

